

**Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

At

**444 W. Lake St., Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60606**

**Thursday, September 13, 2018
4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON

Trustees

**John Stoops
Matthew Bergmann
Peg Cain
Caroline Degenars
Leslie Holling
Howard Isenberg
John Stevenson
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner**

TRUSTEES ABSENT

**Dick Burridge
Kelley Kalinich
Bernard Lilly
Latasha Thomas
Walter Matthews**

TELECONFERENCE

**Rona Fourte
James Reilly**

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Staff

**Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Staff Accountant, PECS
Sonji Jones-Cooks, Executive Director of External Affairs, PECS
Ellen Kollar, PECS Board Nominee**

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:03 p.m. by Mr. Stoops.

II. Public Participation Period (if requested in advance of the meeting)

III. Election of Ellen Kollar to Board of Trustees

On motion duly made (Mr. Isenberg), seconded (Mr. Wiley), and unanimously passed, Ellen Kollar has been nominated and elected as Board Chair of the PECS Board of Trustees. Ms. Kollar is now a Class I director whose term will expire in 2021.

IV. Election of New Officers and Committee Assignments

On motion duly made (Mrs. Holling), seconded (Mr. Stevenson), and unanimously passed, James Reilly was also elected as a Class I director to serve a three-year term to expire in September 2021.

On motion duly made (Mr. Isenberg), seconded (Mr. Stevenson), and unanimously passed, John Stoops has been elected Finance Chair.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

On motion duly made (Mr. Bergmann), seconded (Mr. Wiley), and unanimously passed, the minutes of June 15, 2018 are approved with correction.

Building Operations and Maintenance correction – \$4.4M is the 20 year estimate, not just this year.

VI. ACADEMIC REPORT

Personnel for the 2018-19 school years – There are 61.5 on staff, leaving 8 open positions: 1 SPED Teacher, 4th and 6th grade teachers, a permanent sub and 4 TA positions. There have been some good hires this year. The new Case Manager and 6-8 SPED teacher was an employee about 6 years ago as a TA. We have hired a 3rd party SPED K-2 teacher and are still searching for a 3-5 SPED teacher and Professional Educator Licensed teachers for grades 4 and 6. It is tough this time of the year for hiring classroom teachers. We are mandated to have 75% PEL teachers, we are at 77%.

SQRP preliminary reporting is that we decreased from a level 2+ school to a level 2. The Accelerator course has helped Mrs. Johnson-Williams to become more data-driven. Mr. Isenberg would like to interject that he hopes that we will spare no expense when it comes to raising test scores. The school improvement goal is that 60% of students will grow 1.25 years in Reading and Math by end of year NWEA, spring 2019. Currently 36% exceed projections in reading and 24% exceed projections in Math. We are trying to create buy-in amongst the instructional staff, but not overwhelm them.

Algebra I is back this year. Dean Miller was very successful in implementing the Algebra I program last year. She will be teaming up with Math teacher, Ryan Garcia to teach half the 8th graders in Algebra this year. These same students will participate in Honors English exit exams this year.

Technology in the hands of every single student in our building may be one of the things that help to raise test scores.

Reading consultant, Dr. Chase is returning to us with 32 days on the calendar at a cost of \$16K (possibly will increase to 4 days per month, \$18K). Math consultant, Lynne Ecenbarger will also return with 31 days on the calendar, \$49.6K (possibility of increasing to 4 days per month, \$52K). Lynne recommended making certain teachers experts in Eureka math. Those teachers' students had higher math scores. Eureka will come to us for a group PD. We will also send teachers out to a Eureka Math PD. The Golden apple consulting will continue this year as well with the STEAM program.

We will not move forward with the data consultants this school year. We will take what they have given us over the past two years as well as what we have learned through Accelerator to drive the data.

The overall vision is to make PECS the best place to work and learn. The vision for this year is to close the gap by empowering staff. Scoreboard for access to assessment data is available through a link in the electronic board packet.

There are four Pillars that the Accelerator program is based on. The pillars that we have chosen to concentrate on are high-performing team, constructive environment, data-driven culture, and black-belt teaching. Mrs. Johnson-Williams believes that 95% of the team is on board. She also thinks that it will take a little convincing to get the other 5% to buy in. The program is very engaged.

VII. ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Regarding teacher compensation, Dr. Kalinich asked for guidance on a timeline for when to roll out a new compensation plan and who all would like to be involved in the formation of this new plan. All agreed that it would be reasonable for next school year and should be a joint effort between the academic excellence and finance committees. Ideally, rollout would be good to have in February when Letters of Intent are due.

VII. PECS PROMISE

The FAFSA workshop will be held next weekend for seniors only. The summer internships brought about a high school “link-up” (casual event). The College link-up to come in November is to address those pursuing college. The Homecoming theme this year is “Career”. Community Service opportunities are middle school discussion panel and family giving day. The mentoring program is still ongoing. PECS Promise 2.0 will focus on broadening our efforts to support college persistence by connecting our alums with organizations that are already involved with supporting college persistence. We are encouraging our scholars to apply to some of these programs.

Some of our students are frustrated because they feel they are being ignored because they are not among what are considered the “high-performing” students. The emphasis put on test scores are excluding these kids from college.

VIII. FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Stoops presented the Finance report. The Board needs to approve a revised budget which reflects 475 students. There is a significant decrease in revenue based on the per pupil rate. Charter schools are also sharing the cost of unfunded pension liability. We are basically covering the portion of an unfunded pension liability of other schools. Personnel costs are \$3.5M with an allowance for vacant positions. If fully staffed the salary amount is closer to \$3.7M. This year we are projecting a loss of \$244K. PECS carried a meaningful surplus last year. We can afford to run a deficit for a year without changing the current staffing model. This budget contemplates spending about \$80K on computer equipment. Let’s look at the current IT infrastructure to determine what we already have so that we can determine the new purchases and where they fit.

CPS changed our metric. There used to be a financial scorecard that gave merit to running a surplus. Under the new metric, if cash on hand in relation to debt is sufficient, we will not be penalized for running a deficit. Mr. Stevenson interjected that masonry issues will become more expensive the longer we wait. We need to focus on some of these issues as well. Technology purchases will come around rather quickly. The first round of testing is next week. We will need an assessment or inventory of our current equipment for recommendation for new purchases.

Task: Mr. Stoops will take on the responsibility of engaging someone for an assessment. Mrs. Holling also has a connection that could possibly help with the assessment.

On motion duly made (Mr. Isenberg), seconded (Mr. Stevenson), and unanimously passed, the revised 2018-19 budget is approved as presented.

We will transfer a meaningful portion of cash from the Balance sheet to investments.

With some corrections, Compliance will be 100%.

IX. Neighborhood Initiative

501c3 entity called Englewood (?).... We will also be starting a for-profit investment vehicle to invest in salvageable properties around the school that can be used for families. The 501c3 entity will be to obtain lots and properties set for demolition in hopes of establishing community gardens and playgrounds in efforts to improve the surrounding neighborhoods. The goal is for the for-profit entities to house PECS families and possibly PECS staff. We are very close to closing on the first building in about the next month. Mr. Isenberg interjected that originally the plan was to take this on as a school. Mr. Stoops explained that we did not want to give the impression that we were using public funds for profitable gain. Therefore an investment group of a few individuals was created. There will probably only be one more update on the progress of the neighborhood rejuvenation strategy in this forum, then it will be important to keep these entities separate.

X. PECS Marketing and Branding

Phase 1 is complete. There has been interesting feedback. All groups that were surveyed (leadership team, parents and teachers), showed positive affinity toward the logo and

tag lines. Recommendation was to use a consistent color palette and a back story for the Knight. Sample logos were provided. Phase 2 will include the logo and a mock-up of all the materials that we need (lanyards, stationary, uniforms, etc). The goal is to roll out Phase 2 to families at the MLK day celebration. Reminder: Phase 2 should be complete by the end of the school year, then on to Phase 3 which will consist of changes to the website and pictures.

XI. DEVELOPMENT REPORT

PECS secured a grant via the John Buck partnership. PECS will host their employee volunteer day. We will receive a field day complete with all of the equipment. 39 volunteers from John Buck will participate.

Family Giving Day has once again partnered with Kenilworth Girl Scout troop to be hosted at PECS on November 3rd.

The Annual fundraiser is Friday, February 22, 2019, at Marshall's Landing.

The Annual appeal has a moved up date to mid-October.

XII. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. GOVERNANCE – Mr. Bergmann will update the Director Classes and expiration dates.
- b. FINANCE-No report at this time.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Ms. Cain), seconded (Mr. Stevenson) and unanimously passed, the Board will enter into closed session.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, November 3, 9 a.m. (PECS – 6515 S. Ashland Ave., 60636)