

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

At

Virtual Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86360638630?pwd=S05FbFZtNGdmb0FSQXZJZUY4YWkwZD09>

Meeting ID: 863 6063 8630

Passcode: 5awZTE

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9:00a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM

Directors

Ellen Kollar
Matt Bergmann
Peg Cain
Cheryl Crockett
Caroline Degenaaars
Tim Dugan
Rona Fourte
Howard Isenberg
Yolanda Lester
Bernard Lilly
Joan Malliband
Walter Matthews
James Reilly
Latasha Thomas
Luis Velazquez
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS
Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS
Cynthia Helle, PECS Foundation Board Chair

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:07a.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Subject to the correction of the spelling of Mrs. Malliband's name, on motion duly made (Fourte) and seconded (Thomas), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of December 10, 2020.

III. ACADEMICS

a. Review Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson-Williams took the Board through the Academic Report. She discussed the status of student achievement and remote learning, noting that achievement numbers were strong, largely meeting PECS's targets. Attendance at 90% was also a positive achievement in light of the challenges of remote learning.

The Board expressed its gratitude and praise for the PECS teachers and staff, including the attendance task force, who have persevered so strongly.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams also discussed personnel, noting that 94% of Letters of Intent had been returned from teachers and teaching staff and that to date there was one employee who will not be returning next year and one who was undecided. She noted that twenty-one 6th and 8th grade students participated in middle-of-the-year NWEA testing, since these students were required to do so in order to sit for the selective enrollment exam. Finally, regarding Special Education, Mrs. Johnson-Williams updated the Board with respect to an ISBE systematic complaint that PECS received in 2019 regarding PECS's failure to satisfy the IEP services that our students deserved. She reviewed the efforts taken over the past 2 years and was pleased to report to the Board that ISBE has informed us that we have met the metrics and resolved the complaints, closing the case.

b. COVID Planning

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed with the Board her decision, which has been discussed with and agreed to by the Academic Excellence Committee, that PECS remain 100% remote for the duration of the school year. She discussed with the Board the positive student achievements and strong attendance during remote learning; the disruption that bringing students back into the building would cause, interfering with valuable teaching time; the difficulty of maintaining excellence while teaching simultaneously to students in the building and via zoom; and parent and teacher surveys which indicate a strong support for the continuation of remote learning at this time (very few students would attend in-person). After robust discussion, the Board expressed its support for Mrs. Johnson-Williams decision. All remain optimistic for a full reopening in the fall, with the potential for some in-person teaching during the summer.

IV. FINANCIAL/OPERATIONS

- a. Mrs. Shelton provided the Board with a review of PECS Annual Audit. For the Financial Year 2020, PECS had a clean audit with no material findings. She then reviewed in detail the Financial Report, noting year-to-date actual results, on their own and compared to the budget, presenting Cash Flow Assumptions reflecting varying second semester enrollment assumptions.
- b. Facilities/Operations. Mrs. Shelton discussed COVID-related impacts for facilities and operations. Signage has been placed throughout the building in preparation for in-person learning. She also noted that a car crashed into our fence near the playground and that repairs would be done in the spring.
- c. Compliance – Mrs. Shelton noted that PECS is currently 99% with respect to on time reporting to CPS and that she is working with CPS ensure 100% compliance is appropriately noted.
- d. Finance Committee – Mr. Dugan reported that all is well in hand with the Finance Committee. He noted for the Board the status of the Form 990 to be filed by PECS. After discussion, on motion duly made (Isenberg) and seconded (Matthews), the Board delegated the review, approval and submission of the Form 990 to the Finance Committee.

V. Academic Excellence Committee Report

Ms. Cain updated the Board regarding the work of the AEC, reiterating the committee's praise for the strong achievements in student learning and attendance during the challenges of COVID and remote learning. She and Mrs. Johnson-Williams confirmed to the Board that planning for the Pre-K program continues, with the intention to launch the program in the fall. To date, direct fundraising for Pre-K has amassed \$175,000 against the \$300,000 goal and the project team is continuing its focus on fundraising as well as standing up the program. Mrs. Fourte's suggestion to reach out to McKenzie Scott for charitable funding was taken onboard.

VI. Board Committee Reports

- a. Recruitment – Mr. Wiley updated the Board with regard to Recruitment. Thus far, 159 students have confirmed reenrollment for the 21-22 school year with 41 more in progress. Daycare and Pre-K partners are continuing to be engaged and several Virtual open houses are scheduled. Mr. Wiley is confident that our early start will prove fruitful.
- b. PECS Promise – Ms. Lewis updated the Board with regard to PECS Promise. She noted that the PECS Foundation scholarship process had begun and, at present, there were 5 interested applicants. In addition, two students are in the process for HFS Scholarships. Test prep sessions just ended on Feb 17 and parents have shared how the sessions were useful and appreciated.
- c. Development – The Board discussed Development. In addition to the funds raised for Pre-K (\$175,000) the Committee initiated our annual appeal at the end of 2020 and so far had raised roughly \$130,000 against the goal of \$200,000. Our inability to host an in-person fundraising event this year presents a challenge, but the

Committee intends to send out a follow-up to the year-end appeal and will continue to explore other ways to continue to drive Development.

- d. Governance – Mr. Bergmann updated the Board with regard to Governance. He noted that discussions regarding succession planning will take place at the next committee meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Isenberg), seconded (Cain) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 22, 2021@ 4:00pm (Virtual Zoom Meeting)