

Providence Englewood Charter School  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
Held via Zoom  
Thursday, April 22, 2021  
4:00p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar  
Matt Bergmann  
Peg Cain  
Cheryl Crockett  
Tim Dugan  
Rona Fourte  
Howard Isenberg  
Yolanda Lester  
Joan Maliband  
James Reilly  
Latasha Thomas  
Arlen Wiley  
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Caroline Degenaaars  
Bernard Lilly  
Walter Matthews  
Luis Velazquez

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON

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

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation Period

No requests have been made for public participation in today's meeting.

III. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Fourte), and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of February 20, 2021.

IV. ACADEMICS

a. Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson-Williams gave the highlights of the school report. Regarding the School Improvement Plan, she noted that students continue to make significant academic gains over last year's scores. For the most recent period, 100% of classrooms have met the metric of 75% mastery in both reading and math. It was noted that CPS has suspended the existing SQRP report (PECS is currently at a Level 2+) for the 2020 and 2021 school years due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. They are in the process of revamping the SQRP reporting system for 2022.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams then reviewed with the Board the proposed Academic Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. She noted that, other than planning for 100% in-person attendance, there were no major changes from the current school year, except that school will not be in session for MLK day and Presidents' Day. After discussion, on motion duly made (Cain), seconded (Thomas), and unanimously passed, the Board approved the Academic Calendar for the School Year 2021-2022.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams and Ms. Kollar discussed the status of the Charter Agreements that must be signed by PECS with regard to the 5-year Charter Renewal that was granted by CPS in 2020. They noted that both they and Mrs. Shelton, and PECS outside attorney had reviewed the Charter Agreements and confirmed that they are satisfactory for Board Approval and execution by PECS. Following discussion, on motion duly made (Dugan), seconded (Fourte), and unanimously passed, the Board approved the Charter Agreements and authorized Ms. Kollar, Mrs. Johnson Williams and Mrs. Shelton, and any other appropriate PECS staff, to execute the Charter Agreements on behalf of PECS.

b. Semester 3

Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that preliminary planning for S3 was beginning. She noted that she would keep the Board apprised as those plans developed further. A

question was raised about financial education classes and if we have ever thought about introducing those to our students. Mr. Wiley and Ms. Crockett will inquire about the financial literacy program, Aerial Education Initiative, at Aerial Elementary School in Hyde Park.

c. Pre-K Updates and Academic Excellence

Mrs. Johnson-Williams updated the Board with respect to the Pre-K program, noting that Dr. Kalinichis is in the process of finalizing job descriptions for a Director and teachers. The desired deadline for hiring is June 1<sup>st</sup>. At present PECS has raised \$178.5K toward the \$300K goal for the Pre-K and much work is being done to research funding opportunities from various foundations.

V. OPERATIONS/FINANCE

a. Mrs. Shelton provided a review of PECS Annual Audit and gave the Executive Financial Summary to highlight PECS's financial position. She noted that PECS is operating comfortably within its annual budget and that the school should not need any funding from the Foundation, including not needing to access funds raised during the current school year.

b. Compliance – Mrs. Shelton noted that PECS currently stands at 99% on time reporting.

c. Updates from INCS regarding Governance – Mrs. Shelton noted that members of the PECS Board have completed the state-mandated governance trainings.

d. Budget – Mrs. Shelton is staying informed regarding additional COVID-19 and Stimulus Plan related funding that CPS has received so that we understand the impact those funds may have on PECS.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS

Mrs. Kollar updated the Board with regard to the actions Mrs. Degenars and Ms. Lewis have regarding communications, focusing mostly on Social Media and branding presence. All Board Members were asked to follow PECS' Facebook and Instagram pages, as well as encourage others to follow.

VII. RECRUITMENT

Dr. Jones, Ms. Lewis and Mr. Wiley provided the Board with an updated of PECS's recruitment efforts and enrollment status. They noted in particular that virtual open houses have been set for next month and that networking events with Englewood Community and Daycares have been productive. Even so, the process is slow and challenging due to the pandemic. The team also noted that they are planning to produce a PECS recruitment to share to, hopefully, drive increased awareness and

enrollment. Mrs. Fourte indicated that she could possibly donate plane tickets from United for an incentive to recruitment.

VIII. PECS PROMISE

Ms. Lewis updated the Board with respect to the PECS Promise Program. She noted that 8<sup>th</sup> graders still await their GoCPS notifications – first-round applicants should receive results by April 30<sup>th</sup>. There were two applicants for PECS Foundation scholarships, one who plans to attend Providence St. Mel and the other De LaSalle. College acceptances from PECS Alums are coming in slowly.

IX. DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Zenner reported that the fundraising goal for the school year was \$200K of which \$167K has been raised to date – an impressive feat in light of the pandemic and a testament (together with our Pre-K fundraising) to the generosity of our long-term donors. He noted that we are hopeful that we can have an in-person fundraising event next year.

X. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mr. Bergmann reported on Board Governance training, noting that in 2021, new directors must complete 4 hours and continuing directors must complete only 2 hours. Our participation is being tracked by ISBE. The penalty for not completing the training can affect our scorecard, which can also affect our Charter.

XI. Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session, together with Mrs. Johnson-Williams and Mrs. Shelton, to discuss a personnel matter. The Board expressed its satisfaction with the way that the issue was being managed and was grateful for the transparent discussion of the matter.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, June 12, 2021, via Zoom (9:00a.m.)