

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

At
Water Street
Thursday, September 8, 2022
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM

Ellen Kollar, Board Chair
Matt Bergmann
Tim Dugan
Peg Cain
Howard Isenberg
Kelley Kalinich
Joan Maliband
James Reilly
John Stevenson
Latasha Thomas
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Cheryl Crockett
Caroline Degenaars
Rona Fourte
Yolanda Lester
Bernard Lilly
John Stoops
Luis Velazquez

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Jacinta Wallace, PreK Director, PECS
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS
Walter Matthews, Student Advocate, PECS
Cynthia Helle, PECS Foundation Chair
Tim Lemberger, Board Candidate

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation

No public participation currently.

III. Opening Comments and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. On motion duly made (Cain) and seconded (Zenner), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of July 9, 2022.

IV. GOVERNANCE

a. Appointment of Tim Lemberger to the Board of Directors

Mr. Bermann introduced Tim Lemberger to the Board and gave the Governance Committee's recommendation that Mr. Lemberger be appointed to the Board. On motion duly made (Bergmann), seconded (Thomas) and unanimously approved, the Board unanimously approved the appointment of Tim Lemberger to the Providence Englewood Charter School Board of Directors.

b. Re-election of Class II Directors/Changes to Committee Assignments

With regard to the annual election of Directors, Mr. Bergmann stated that the Class II Directors up for re-election are Mrs. Degenaaers, Mr. Dugan, Ms. Fourte, Rev. Lilly and Ms. Thomas. Mr. Lemberger will also be added to Class II, as will Dr. Kalinich who is re-joining the Board. On motion duly made (Bergmann) and seconded (Thomas), the Board unanimously approved the election of these Class II Directors.

Mr. Bermann then noted that he must rotate off as the Board as an active member for a year. As a result, he put forth to the Board Ms. Thomas to take the role of Secretary and both Ms. Fourte and Ms. Thomas to co-chair the Governance committee. On motion duly made (Kollar), seconded (Bergmann) and unanimously approved, the Board appointed Ms. Thomas to the role of Secretary and both Ms. Thomas and Ms. Fourte as Co-chairs of the Governance Committee.

Mr. Bermann noted that all new Directors must complete 4 hours of Board Training, while all other Board members must complete 2 hours per year; returning members will only need to complete 2 hours of training.

V. ACADEMICS

Mrs. Johnson-Williams took the Board through the detailed Academic Report. She noted in particular: new team members joining PECS this school year, including two new Special Education professionals; the 2022-2023 Strategic Plan, noting the various goals

and metrics; and the work being done to ensure resolution of the ISBE complaint regarding Special Education and IEPs.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that the Academic Report showed enrollment of 463 students, but that this did not include all of the students who had transferred away from PECS and so the enrollment number was actually closer to 425. The Board discussed the financial consequences of enrollment falling so far under the assumptions of 475-500 students for the school year, and the need for the school year budget to be reviewed and adjusted accordingly. Discussion ensued regarding the demographic trends in Englewood, and throughout Chicago, and the impact on CPS and PECS enrollment. The Board agreed that further discussion is warranted regarding realistic enrollment assumptions in the future and the financial consequences.

Ms. Wallace provided the Board with a report regarding the Pre-K program, including a review of enrollment and highlights regarding student performance so far. Ms. Wallace also noted that PECS received our first funding through Gateways Illinois and that the process regarding reimbursements via the Childcare Assistance program is in the works. She also noted that 15 of last year's pre-k students moved into PECS's kindergarten.

VI. LOAN REFINANCE UPDATE

Mr. Bergmann updated the Board regarding the status of the refinancing or replacement of the IFF Loan. He and Mr. Dugan noted that the PECS Foundation is willing to provide a loan to refinance the IFF loan, but in light of the change in PECS's enrollment and financial assumptions for the school year they discussed with the Board whether this was the most appropriate option at this time. Following discussion, the Board concluded that either approach would be acceptable and determined that it was most appropriate for Mr. Dugan and Mr. Bergmann to continue discussions with both IFF and the PECS Foundation and to either refinance or replace the IFF as they and the Finance Committee deem most appropriate. On motion duly made (Bergmann) and seconded (Thomas), the Board unanimously delegated to Mr. Dugan the authority to approve terms for the renewal or replacement of the IFF Loan, with either IFF or the PECS Foundation as the lender and further delegated to Mr. Dugan the authority to approve and have executed all necessary agreements and documentation.

VII. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley provided the Board with a report from the Recruitment Committee. He addressed in particular how the enrollment numbers shifted dramatically from the beginning of the summer (when PECS was well on the way to 500 plus students enrolled) to the current enrollment of approximately 425, which was caused by an unexpected number of transfers and no-shows. He further reported the work that the recruitment team has been doing to call all the no-shows to determine their status and the reasons and to call all students on the waitlist.

Mr. Wiley noted that PECS enrollment numbers remained strong compared to our surrounding schools – PECS continues to be the largest school when compared to the ten schools nearest to it.

VIII. FINANCIAL/OPERATIONS

Ms. Ragland reviewed with the Board PECS's financial position and operations. In light of the changed enrollment numbers, she reviewed with the Board the Pro Forma budget and breakeven analysis with staffing projections that was included in the Board Packet. The Board again discussed the financial impact of the lower than projected enrollment numbers and agreed to discuss it again at the October meeting with the benefit of specifics regarding the 20th day enrollment count.

Ms. Ragland noted that compliance is 100%.

IX. PECS PROMISE

Mr. Reilly reported to the Board regarding PECS Promise. He reported that there are 18 eighth graders enrolled in Test Prep with The Critical Thinking Child; that alumni Homecoming weekend is slated for October; and that the Mentor program is getting underway. He also discussed the thinking that the PECS Promise Committee is doing in light of recent research reports regarding the most impactful ways to drive social mobility, to determine if there are new actions that PECS could/should be taking for the benefit of our students.

X. DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Malliband reported to the Board regarding Development. She discussed the work that Mr. Lemberger is doing to form an Associates Board of young professionals, to cultivate new relationships (with the professionals and their employers).

Mrs. Malliband also discussed the Development Committee's intention to host an In-person fundraising event in February 2023. She also noted that the Committee will also explore other idea, such as an Auction website, like Charity Buzz, as new potential ways for PECS to raise money online without pulling from the existing donor base.

XI. Closed Session (note needed)

XII. Other Business (none)

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Zenner) and unanimously passed, the Board meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 29, 2022, 9:00 a.m., PECS, 6515 S. Ashland Ave