

Providence Englewood Charter School  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
444 W. Lake Street, Suite 1800  
Thursday, April 27, 2023  
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar  
Peg Cain  
Caroline Degenaaars  
Tim Dugan  
Rona Fourte  
Howard Isenberg  
Dr. Kelley Kalinich  
Tim Lemberger  
Joan Malliband  
James Reilly  
John Stevenson  
John Stoops  
Latasha Thomas  
Arlen Wiley  
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Yolanda Lester  
Bernard Lilly  
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  
Jacinta Wallace, Pre-K Director, PECS  
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS  
Walter Matthews, Student Advocate, PECS

Guests

Diamond Brown, Clinician, PECS (via Zoom)

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 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 (Isenberg), seconded (Wiley), and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of February 25, 2023.

IV. ACADEMICS

a. Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed with the Board the academic report. She detailed the actions being taken by the teaching staff to drive School Improvement, including changes to ensure appropriate rigor for student assessments. She also discussed PECS's rating in the Targeted Support category by the ISBE, due to our SPED program. The Office of I&I has rolled out a support program for charters that have fallen into the Targeted Support category, which the PECS team is actively participating in.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed changes made to the Student Handbook with the Board. On motion duly made (Thomas) and seconded (Stoops), the Board unanimously authorized Mrs. Kollar to review and approve, on behalf of the Board, the 2023-24 Student Handbook.

b. Pre-K Updates

Ms. Wallace reviewed with the Board the Pre-K report. She highlighted field trips and other activities the students have done, in addition to their achievements to date. Ms. Wallace also discussed the work she is doing to secure funding for the Pre-K program, including grant applications that she submitted to Invest for Kids and American Family Insurance Dreams Foundation.

Of the current Pre-K students, Ms. Wallace noted that 14 have already registered for kindergarten, with three still in progress. Finally, she noted that she is tracking the achievement of students that went through our Pre-K along with those who did not, calling it the "Kindergarten Readiness Project."

V. OPERATIONS/FINANCE

Mrs. Shelton reviewed with the Board in detail the Financial Report, noting year-to-date actual results, on their own and compared to the budget. She also reviewed that for next school year's budget, noting in particular that SBB and discretionary funding will increase while ESSER funding will be reduced significantly. She reported that PECS's Compliance is 100%.

Mrs. Shelton then discussed the discussions the Finance Committee held with ORBA regarding the audit process, noting that ORBA felt confident that they will be able to meet our expectations next year and that PECS will need to make some changes to the system used to account for the PECS Foundation. Talks surrounding these issues will continue.

She also noted that work is underway to review PECS's vacation and sick time policies. Lastly, Mrs. Shelton discussed the need to review the security of our building and the Justine entrance, noting that she is considering engaging a consultant and observing what other schools in the area are doing.

#### VI. DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Degenars reported that the Annual appeal raised \$137,000 donations and the Annual Benefit netted just under \$50,000. She also noted that the Dana Fallon Memorial fund raised, in total (last year and this year) roughly \$15,000 which will be used to dramatically improve the Teachers' Lounge.

The Board discussed the Annual Benefit, noting causes for the lower fundraising amounts. Overall, while the event was fun and fresh, and the first in-person post-Covid, attendance was a challenge. Consideration is being made of whether to move the event to a different time of year. The Board discussed the critical importance of cultivating existing, and forging new, relationships while also finding other fundraising sources.

Mr. Lemberger shared information about the Associate Board and the interest garnered from the Annual Event. He will host a zoom meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup> to launch this new Board.

#### VII. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley and the recruitment team provided an update to the Board regarding enrollment. They noted that the enrollment goal remains 500 students, although this is likely unreachable due to demographic challenges. Enrollment for next school year, is well underway, with re-enrollment and new students working through the application process. In addition, a PECS community-wide end of the school year event is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Families with children in local daycares have been invited and tours will offered throughout the event.

VIII. PECS PROMISE

Ms. Lewis reported to the Board regarding PECS Promise. She highlighted the high school choices being made by our 8<sup>th</sup> graders – most notably that 7 PECS students received first round offers to Selective Enrollment schools, with three more on the waiting list. In addition, one student will attend Morgan Park Academy and will receive the HFS scholarship.

She also discussed the mentor program, highlighting the need to engage more mentors and to start the high school strategy meetings earlier (in 7<sup>th</sup> grade instead of 8<sup>th</sup> grade). Two Career Day participants signed up to be mentors, which is great news. PECS Promise s also looking to make cross-socio-economic class connections among students and Chicago organizations this summer, such as the Steppenwolf Theatre and Young Chicago Authors. Ms. Lewis also highlighted some exciting Alumni achievements.

IX. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Mrs. Fourte and Mrs. Thomas reported that they have been meeting with prospective Board Members. Cheryl Crockett has decided to step back from the Board, with the intention to re-engage at a later time.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Stoops) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board was adjourned at 4:16 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Friday, June 9, 2023, 11:30 – 1:30p.m., PECS, 6515 S. Ashland Ave