

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
444 W. Lake Street, Suite 1800
Thursday, September 21, 2023
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar
Peg Cain
Tim Dugan
Howard Isenberg
Dr. Kelley Kalinich
Tim Lemberger
Yolanda Lester
Bernard Lilly
James Reilly
John Stevenson
John Stoops
Latasha Thomas
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Caroline Degenaaars
Rona Fourte
Joan Malliband
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 (Zoom)
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS
Walter Matthews, Student Advocate, 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 (Zenner), seconded (Isenberg), and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of April 27, 2023, and June 9, 2023.

IV. GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Thomas presented Judge Leonard Murray, Board Candidate, for consideration and approval. Judge Murray's vitae was included in the Board Packet. On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Zenner), the Board unanimously approved Judge Murray's addition to the PECS Board of Directors, designating him as a Class III director.

Mr. Bergmann expressed his intent to return to the Board of Directors after his year away. On motion duly made (Thomas), and seconded (Dugan), the Board unanimously approved Mr. Bergmann's return to Board service, designating him a Class III director.

On motion duly made (Thomas), and seconded (Dugan), the Board unanimously approved the following Class III Directors to remain on the Board for a new three-year cycle: Cain, Isenberg, Stevenson, Stoops, Wiley and Zenner.

Mrs. Thomas reminded the Board of their obligation to complete annual Board training. New members must complete 4 hours of training in their first and existing members must complete 2 hours of training each year thereafter.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that Mr. Velazquez's term as a Class III Board member was not renewed since he no longer has any children at PECS. Mrs. Johnson-Williams will submit to the Governance Committee for consideration information regarding a PECS parent who could potentially serve on the Board as PECS's parent representative, for consideration by the Board at a future meeting.

Judge Murray then joined the meeting via Zoom and was enthusiastically welcomed.

V. ACADEMICS

a. Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson-Williams reviewed with the Board the academic report, highlighting the change to the iReady curriculum and noting that students will move fully from NWEA assessment testing to IAR, the Illinois Assessment of Readiness exams. She also shared with the Board new strategic goals for 2023-24.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams discussed with the Board the status of the ten migrant students who are attending PECS this year. She reported that PECS has purchased translators to better help communication with students and their parents; we also have three Spanish speaking teachers at present, which has been a tremendous help and are considering other ways to facilitate communications (including potentially adding a bilingual resource in the front office and/or engaging a bilingual parent volunteer).

Finally, Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that current enrollment is 444 students, a significant increase from the 409 enrolled students at the end of last year. She and the Board commended the recruitment on a fantastic job. Unfortunately, there were 43 transfers from July to the early part of September.

b. Pre-K Updates and Academic Excellence

Ms. Wallace reviewed with the Board the PreK report. She noted that we currently have 20 students enrolled and attending, with a waitlist of 14 potential students. She provided updates regarding attendance, curriculum and field trips, as well as parent connections.

Ms. Wallace also discussed her work seeking new funding sources for PreK – to fund the existing program as well as a second PreK classroom.

VI. OPERATIONS/FINANCE

Mrs. Shelton reviewed with the Board in detail the Financial Report. She highlighted the 20th day enrollment count of 444 students. The current budget is based on 429 students and so will be revised to include the additional funding. We are also seeking additional funding for our SPED students. She provided an update regarding the audit, noting that the fieldwork is in process and has been running smoothly thus far.

Mrs. Shelton then discussed PECS facilities, noting in particular that the HVAC system is in dire need of an overhaul. The Board discussed the estimate to replace the four most problematic HVAC units (approximately \$182K), noting that there should be sufficient cash to cover the cost, even before the budget is revised to reflect the higher enrollment. Mrs. Shelton will continue to seek funds through INCS, which is working to secure facilities funding for Chicago charter schools.

VII. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley applauded the recruiting team for their work to drive enrollment. He further noted his belief that achieving enrollment of 500 students is possible – through continued hard outreach work as well as focus on reducing the number of students who transfer each year. Dr. Jones shared that the recruitment process is a year-round effort. Ms. Lewis, Pastor Matthews, Ms. Wallace and Mr. Sanders have been instrumental in helping to drive our efforts.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT

The Development report was included in the Board materials. The Committee will provide a report at the next Board meeting.

IX. ASSOCIATE BOARD

Mr. Lemberger shared with the Board an update regarding the newly formed Associate Board. He reported that currently there are seven Associate Board members, with three new members in the pipeline. They have created committees: recruitment; fundraising; and mentoring, and have scheduled a tour of PECS for November 16, and all Board members are welcome to join.

X. PECS PROMISE

Ms. Lewis shared that she has been in contact with the Associate Board mentoring committee regarding mentoring at PECS and that she will make the switch to focus on 7th grade mentoring and test prep rather than waiting until 8th grade. She reported that the first 8th grade parent meeting is tomorrow in conjunction with Parent Teacher Conferences so that the work can begin regarding high school selections. She also updated the Board regarding alumni engagement.

Mr. Reilly discussed with the Board his suggestion to disband the PECS Promise Committee. He noted that this is due to the success of the PECS Promise Program and the work that Ms. Lewis does to run the program; he intends to remain a source of contact and support for the program. The Board lauded the Committee for successfully launching the PECS Promise Program and Ms. Lewis for running it so successfully. After discussion it was agreed that Mr. Reilly would discuss disbanding with the full PECS Promise Committee and, if they agree, he will bring it before the Board at the next board meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Stoops) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 28, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at PECS