

Providence Englewood Charter School  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
6515 S. Ashland Avenue  
Saturday, October 28, 2023  
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar  
Peg Cain  
Rona Fourte  
Dr. Kelley Kalinich  
Tim Lemberger  
Yolanda Lester  
Joan Malliband  
Judge Leonard Murray  
James Reilly  
John Stevenson  
Latasha Thomas  
Arlen Wiley  
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Caroline Degenaars  
Tim Dugan  
Howard Isenberg  
Bernard Lilly  
John Stoops

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS  
Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS (Zoom)  
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS  
Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS  
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS  
Walter Matthews, Student Advocate, PECS

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.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

The Board opened the meeting with hearty and heartfelt congratulations to Mrs. Shelton on now being properly referred to as Dr. Shelton due to her being awarded her Ph.D.

On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Fourte), and unanimously passed, the Board approved the minutes of September 21, 2023.

IV. GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Fourte presented Eddie Ross, Board Candidate, for consideration and approval. Mr. Ross' resume was included in the Board Packet. Mr. Ross is an active parent of PECS as well as in his community and will serve on the Board of Directors as a Parent Representative. On motion duly made (Thomas), and seconded (Wiley), the Board unanimously approved the addition of Mr. Ross to the PECS Board of Directors, to serve as a Class III director.

Mrs. Forte and Mrs. Thomas encouraged all members to complete their required board training, noting that Mrs. Thomas has emailed the link to everyone. The deadline for completion is December 31, 2023.

V. ACADEMICS

a. Academic Report

Mrs. Johnson-Williams presented to the Board the Academic Report, working with the materials included in the Board Packet. She reviewed in detail various metrics, including academic achievement, student conduct and attendance, as well as teacher metrics and personnel needs.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams also shared with the Board the good news that PECS has moved from Targeted Support Status, to Commendable, per ISBE ratings, which is a notable improvement.

Finally, Mrs. Johnson-Williams noted that PECS's Charter Renewal process will begin in the spring, with the application due at the end of July. A core PECS team has been connected to INCS to benefit from their guidance with regard to the process.

#### VI. OPERATIONS/FINANCE

Dr. Shelton reviewed with the Board in detail the Financial Report, noting PECS's financial results year-to-date as well as comparisons to budget.

She noted that the Audit of the 2022-2023 financials is complete but that she only received the audit draft the day prior to the Board meeting so had yet to review it with the Finance Committee. She noted that there were no findings and PECS will be issued a clean audit. On motion duly made (Fourte), and seconded (Cain), the Board authorized the Finance committee to review and approve the audit for submission to CPS.

Compliance is 100% through October.

Dr. Shelton then discussed with the Board concerns regarding Safety and Security, particularly due to specific incidents near the school property. The Board discussed the need to consider a redesign of the foyer area to better manage access into the school. Mrs. Fourte and Mr. Zenner volunteer to work with Mrs. Shelton on this issue regarding funding.

#### VII. PECS Promise

Ms. Lewis reported to the Board with regard to PECS Promise. She noted that we have had a strong alumni presence in the building, for which we are grateful, but that we found it necessary to create a better system with more structure with regard to such visits. High school strategy meetings continue, with Ms. Lewis and Dr. Jones meeting over the last few weeks with 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and their families.

Mr. Reilly reiterated his proposal to sunset the PECS Promise Committee. The program will remain, under Ms. Lewis leadership, but the formal committee will disband, leaving members available to join other committees. Upon motion duly made (Zenner), Seconded (Cain), the Board unanimously approves disbanding the PECS Promise Committee. The Board thanked the Committee for the work it has done over the years to create and steward the PECS Promise Program. The Board also thanked Ms. Lewis for running the program so ably that the Committee was no longer needed – the PECS Promise Program stands well on its own without the need for formal committee support.

#### VIII. DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Malliband provided the Board with the Development Committee Report. She noted that there will be a fundraiser shopping event at P-45 on November 15, with a portion of

the proceeds benefiting PECS. In addition, the annual appeal will be sent out on Giving Tuesday, as an electronic appeal, with a letter to follow. The teacher appreciation luncheon will be hosted on December 13<sup>th</sup> at PECS. All board members are welcome to attend.

Mrs. Malliband then discussed current plans with regard to the annual benefit, which has traditionally been held at the end of February. This year it will potentially be held on or around April 18<sup>th</sup> at the Chicago Athletic Association. She invited all Directors to share suggestions with Mrs. Malliband and/or Mrs. Degenars. This year's fundraising goal is \$150K.

IX. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley provided the Board with the Recruitment Committee report. He noted that enrollment is steady and that we are hoping at this stage in the game, that we won't see too many transfers. He noted upcoming Recruitment activities, including a Kindergarten Fair.

Mr. Reilly would joined the Recruitment Committee.

X. ASSOCIATE BOARD

Mr. Lemberger discussed with the Board the status and activities of the Associate Board. He noted that the Board will be touring the school on November 16<sup>th</sup> and that there are two new members since last meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Thomas), seconded (Cain) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. at Water Street.