

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Water Street
Thursday, December 7, 2023
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM

Ellen Kollar, Board Chair
Matt Bergmann
Peg Cain
Caroline Degenaaars
Rona Fourte
Howard Isenberg
Kelley Kalinich
Tim Lemberger
Yolanda Lester
Joan Malliband
James Reilly
Eddie Ross
John Stevenson
John Stoops
Latasha Thomas
Lennard Murray
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Tim Dugan
Bernard Lilly

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff

Dr. Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Jacinta Wallace, PreK Director, PECS
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS
Walter Matthews, Student Advocate, PECS
Jessica Lewis, External Affairs Program Manager, PECS

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:11 p.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation

No public participation currently.

III. Opening Comments

Mrs. Kollar opened the meeting by taking a moment to acknowledge Mrs. Johnson-Williams' loss. The Board paused to recognize the life of Earnest Williams and to express deep condolences to the Williams Family.

Mrs. Kollar introduced and welcomed to the meeting PECS's new Parent Board Member, Eddie Ross.

The Board then took time to thank Howard Isenberg for his 17 years of tremendous service to the Board and to the school. Mr. Isenberg announced his retirement from the PECS Board, to take effect at the end of this meeting. The Board expressed its deep gratitude and shared with Mr. Isenberg thank-you notes from PECS students and a video of thanks from students and staff. In addition, following discussion and on motion duly made (Cain) and seconded (Kalinich) the Board conferred on Mr. Isenberg the status of Director Emeritus.

IV. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. On motion duly made (Stevenson) and seconded (Thomas), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of October 28, 2023.

V. Academic Report

In Ms. Johnson-Williams' absence, the Board deferred reviewing the Academic Report until its next meeting.

Ms. Wallace shared with the Board a report on the Pre-K status and progress. She discussed academic achievement as well as Parent Teacher Conference attendance. She noted that the first time, PreK participated in the honors assembly with recognition of five students with Perfect Attendance for the first quarter. She also updated the Board regarding funding and grant proposals that are being pursued for PreK.

VI. FINANCE/OPERATIONS

Dr. Shelton reviewed with the Board in detail the Financial Report, noting that since our last meeting, ESSER funding has been approved.

Dr. Shelton noted that the 4-unit ventilators discussed at the last Board meeting have been ordered and will be installed over the winter break. Regarding Safety and Security, due to a recent incident, it has become necessary to post signs to make people aware that dogs are not allowed on the campus.

Board Conflict of Interest statements are coming due. Forms will be shared with Directors for completion. Compliance is 100% through November.

VII. DEVELOPMENT

Mrs. Degenars provided the Board with the Development Committee Report. The fundraising goal is set for this year at \$150,000, with \$38,000 raised to date. Emails went out in solicitation of Giving Tuesday and the P45 fundraiser was a success, raising \$1,300 on behalf of PECS.

Mrs. Degenars noted that the Staff appreciation party will be held at PECS on December 13 and that all Board Members are welcome to attend. The Foundation Board is underwriting the event in its entirety, which is deeply appreciated.

With respect to the PECS annual event, Mrs. Degenars informed the Board that it will take place on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at the Chicago Athletic Club. If anyone would like to join the host committee or can recommend someone to join, please reach out to Mrs. Degenars or Mrs. Malliband.

VIII. ASSOCIATE BOARD REPORT

Mr. Lemberger shared the happenings of the Associate Board. Membership is now up to 8 with two additional pending memberships and there is discussion about having a small fundraiser event in January, with a minimal ticket cost. Mr. Lemberger will share details once available. He noted that the Associate Board also garnered its first corporate donation of \$1,000. Mrs. Kollar thanked Mr. Lemberger for making the Associates Board a reality – it is exciting to have it up and running and all agree that it will be great source for future PECS Board of Directors.

IX. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley updated the Board with regard to the Recruitment Committee. He discussed enrollment (which is holding steady at 441, the highest of the ten schools within a mile of PECS) as well as capacity at various grade levels and how that compared to a waitlist. He noted that the calendar is in development, with the plan to have monthly open houses and to have the team continue to visit daycares.

The Board discussed the Recruitment Committee's wishlist items, such as additional PreK and Kindergarten classrooms and a more efficient application system to manage

enrollment. The Board also discussed opportunities to better recruit and serve the growing Hispanic population in Englewood.

Pastor Matthews updated the Board with regard to the new electric sign that will be installed on the Ashland Avenue side of the school: we are still in the permitting stage, aiming for installation in February 2024.

X. GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Thomas reminded the Board that annual training must be completed before the end of the year; she sent an email to all directors as a reminder.

XI. PECS PROMISE

Ms. Lewis discussed with the Board the status of the high school progress for our eighth graders, including scholarship applications. She noted her plans to work more closely with seventh grader so that they and their parents are prepared for the selective enrollment process. She also discussed PECS alumni colleges and university acceptances and discussed the recent PECS visit by alum, Jesus Flores, who is now a Private First Class. He came to the school in full military garb and spoke with enthusiasm to our students about his experience at PECS.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Fourte), seconded (Thomas) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board is adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 10, 2024 (9:00 - 11:00 a.m.) at PECS