

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Water Street
Saturday, February 10, 2024
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

DIRECTORS IN PERSON and VIA ZOOM

Ellen Kollar, Board Chair
Matt Bergmann
Peg Cain
Caroline Degenaaars
Rona Fourte
Kelley Kalinich
Yolanda Lester
Bernard Lilly
Joan Malliband
James Reilly
Eddie Ross
John Stevenson
John Stoops
Lennard Murray
Arlen Wiley

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Tim Dugan
Tim Lemberger
Latasha Thomas

OTHERS PRESENT

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Principal, PECS (Zoom)
Dr. Shinwe Shelton, Deputy Director of Operations, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Jacinta Wallace, PreK Director, PECS (Zoom)
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 9:07 a.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation

No public participation currently.

III. ACADEMICS

Mrs. Johnson-Williams shared with the Board the Semester 1 State of The School report. She shared the presentation earlier in the week with faculty and staff as part of a day of team-building and collaborative efforts. We also celebrated 5, 10, and 15-year employees. Mrs. Johnson-Williams was happy to report that with the recent addition of three new teachers, she has been able to move Mrs. Modacure, Mrs. Higareda and Mrs. Willis out of the classroom and into their roles as Math Interventionist and Instructional Coaches, respectively. These positions are essential to helping us drive our students' academic achievement. Our expectation is to see continued growth as we navigate the new iReady curriculum.

IV. Charter Renewal

Mrs. Johnson-Williams, Dr. Shelton and Mrs. Kollar discussed the Charter Renewal process that PECS will be a part of this year, since PECS's five-year Charter Agreement will expire in June 2025. They noted that formal kickoff for charter renewal will begin in April; CPS will come to PECS with their preliminary findings in May and June; and our renewal application will be due in July.

The Board discussed the current political environment in Chicago with regard to charter schools and the CPS Board's intention to focus on neighborhood schools, which threaten selective enrollment and charter schools.

V. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. On motion duly made (Cain) and seconded (Fourte), the Board unanimously approved the minutes of December 7, 2023.

VI. GOVERNANCE

Ms. Forte raised with the Board the need for formal approval of an amendment to the PECS Bylaws to specifically reference the addition of a Parent Member to the Board of Directors (as set forth in the Board Meeting Packet). She noted that the PECS Bylaws have always permitted such an addition to the Board and that PECS has had a Parent Representative on the Board since required under Illinois law. Nonetheless, CPS has requested that our Bylaws be amended. On motion duly made (Stoops) and seconded (Fourte), the Board unanimously approved the amended Bylaws.

VII. FINANCIAL/OPERATIONS

Dr. Shelton reviewed with the Board the details of the Finance report. Overall, PECS is performing well, with an operating surplus due to higher revenue and growth due to enrollment. Compliance is 100% through January.

Directors are reminded to please submit your Conflict-of-Interest statements.

VIII. DEVELOPMENT

Year-to-date donations are \$194,000. We are extremely grateful for the generous donation from the Fitzpatrick family in honor of Earnest Williams.

Mrs. Malliband and Mrs. Degenars hosted an introductory meeting for Kenilworth families that have an interest in developing a relationship with PECS. It was an encouraging event that will hopefully generate positive results and new interest.

The Associate Board's inaugural event went well. Ticket Sales from the event will be donated to PECS.

IX. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley gave the highlights of the major recruiting initiatives for the 2024-2025 school year. The goal remains to enroll 500 students. Open houses, community mailings, referral programs and incentives, updated marketing materials to include Spanish versions, and our annual spring community day event, are all tools that will help us to reach our goal of 500 students.

X. PECS PROMISE

Ms. Lewis shared some accomplishments of both PECS Alumni and PECS 8th graders. The Class of 2024 are anxiously awaiting high school offers from CPS. The Class of 2020 are receiving acceptances from colleges and are super excited about their futures.

XI. Other Business

Mrs. Degenars will be hosting tours of the school March 6th and April 11th. Student ambassadors will lead visitors on a tour of the school between 10:45 and 12:30.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Cain), seconded (Wiley) and unanimously passed, the meeting of the Board is adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 25, 2024 (4:00 - 6:00 p.m.) at Water Street.