

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Water Street, 444 W. Lake Street – Suite 1800

Thursday, September 12, 2024
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar
Matt Bergmann
Peg Cain (Zoom)
Caroline Degenaaars (Zoom)
Tim Dugan
Rona Fourte (Zoom)
Dr. Kelley Kalinich (Zoom)
Levi Neaveill
James Reilly (Zoom)
Eddie Ross
John Stevenson (Zoom)
John Stoops (Zoom)
Arlen Wiley

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Yolanda Lester
Bernard Lilly
Joan Malliband
Lennard Murray
Latasha Thomas
Jason Zenner

OTHERS PRESENT IN PERSON

Staff

Angela Johnson-Williams, Executive Director, PECS
Dr. Shinwe Shelton, Chief Operations Officer, PECS
Shauna Bellen, Principal, PECS
Tahanni Ragland, Business Manager, PECS
Jessica Lewis, PECS Promise, PECS
Jacinta Wallace, Pre-K Director, PECS
Dr. Antoine Jones, Recruiter, PECS

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 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 April 25 and June 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

The approval of the minutes of the April 25th, June 7th, and September 12, 2024 meetings were deferred until the October Board meeting when an in-person quorum is present.

The Board discussed whether it should consider changing the forum and logistics of Board Meetings in order to optimize in-person attendance at those meetings where a quorum is needed to take necessary actions. The Board agreed to discuss this further at its next meeting.

The Board warmly welcomed and congratulated PECS' new Principal, Shauna Bellen, and also offered congratulations to both Angela Johnson-Williams, Executive Director, and Dr. Shinwe Shelton, COO, in their new roles.

IV. GOVERNANCE

Mrs. Fourte informed the Board of Class I Directors that are up for re-election. The current Class I Directors are Mrs. Kollar and Mr. Reilly, together with Mr. Neaveill, who joined the Board earlier in 2024, and has also been added to Class I. Mr. Reilly, who reached his nine-year term limit and so must step away from the Board for at least one year, discussed with the Board his decision to step away likely for longer than the one-year period. The Board thanked Mr. Reilly for all his passionate, engaged and impactful service to PECS.

Mrs. Fourte noted that formal Board approval of the re-election of Mrs. Kollar as a Class I Director and as Chair of the Board will happen at the next PECS Board meeting, when an in-person quorum is expected to be present.

Mrs. Fourte also reminded the Board of the required Board Training and asked that any recommendations for new Directors be sent to the Governance Committee.

V. STRATEGIC PLAN

Mrs. Johnson-Williams and Mrs. Kollar noted that it is time for PECS to develop a new 5-Year Strategic Plan and welcomed any Board Members with a passion for Strategic Planning or would like to engage with them. The Board will be engaged in a discussion about the Plan at the next meeting.

VI. SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Johnson-Williams discussed with the Board the organizational changes that were made at PECS over the summer and shared staff updates with the Board. She also discussed details about the student population, noting in particular the increase in English language learners and the role Mrs. Rodriguez is playing as our ESL specialist.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams then reviewed the schools key metrics, including attendance and discipline date. Finally, she noted that the Charter Renewal site visit is scheduled for October 1.

The Board discussed all that was shared as well as the relevant interventions and actions to be taken to drive continued improvement.

VII. OPERATIONS/FINANCE

To enable the Board to monitor and assess PECS's operations and financial performance, Dr. Shelton reviewed in detail the Financial and Operational Reports. She discussed repairs that were completed over the summer. She highlighted that PECS has 39 HVAC units, of which 13 are new, meaning that PECS is still operating with 26 aging units; PECS is still attempting to get placement on the Capital Improvement Plan at CPS.

Dr. Shelton also reviewed the budget for the 2024-2025 school year and noted that the auditors will be at PECS on September 16 to conduct their field work.

With regard to compliance, Dr. Shelton noted that PECS compliance is at 100% through July.

The Board discussed these reports as well as appropriate next steps. The Board was pleased with the increase in funding from CPS and is hopeful that the budgeted enrollment will be achieved.

VIII. RECRUITMENT

Mr. Wiley shared highlights of the recruitment report. Enrollment is at 432, slightly below where we were at this time last year, but efforts are continuing to enroll students. He also noted the increase in PECS's Spanish-speaking student population and celebrated that PECS remains one of the highest enrolled schools in our area.

The Board discussed all of these developments as well as actions that can be taken to continue to drive enrollment.

IX. DEVELOPMENT

The Development Committee reported to the Board with respect to fundraising for the 2024-2025 year: the goal last year was \$150,000 and \$218,000 was raised. Last year's development efforts involved two major initiatives, the Giving Tuesday Appeal and our Annual Event. These will be pursued this year as well, and the Committee also hopes to re-invigorate the Kenilworth-PECS partnership and drive connections between PECS and the Joseph Sears School in Kenilworth.

The Board thanked the Development Committee for another year of hard work and successful fundraising.

X. ASSOCIATE BOARD

Mr. Neaveill discussed with the Board the activities of the Associate Board. He discussed the increased membership from 16 to 19 as well as the work the Associate Board did to paint rooms at PECS over the summer – and a \$5000 grant from Allstate that the Associate Board secured in connection with that work.

The Board discussed aspects of the Associate Board, including its ideal size and the types of activities they are planning. They also discussed the opportunity to have Associate Board members serve as PECS mentors. The Board thanked Mr. Neaveill for the exciting developments at the Associate Board.

XI. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Ms. Lewis reported to the Board about the PECS Promise Program. She discussed the shift of the mentor program to focus on 7th graders in order to give them a longer opportunity to focus on high school choice. She noted that we may dedicate a part of Semester 3 to test prep for the high school entrance exam as well.

Ms. Lewis also discussed connections with PECS alumni, including one that has the potential to create partnership between PECS and Good Kid, Mad City – Englewood.

The Board expressed its continued enthusiastic support for the PECS Promise Program and thanked Ms. Lewis for her work.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 6:00 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, October 26, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. at PECS