

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

Thursday, December 5, 2024
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar
Matt Bergmann
Caroline Degenaaars
Tim Dugan
Rona Fourte (Zoom)
Dr. Kelley Kalinich (Zoom)
Joan Malliband (Zoom)
Levi Neaveill
John Stevenson
John Stoops (Zoom)
Latasha Thomas (Zoom)
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Peg Cain
Yolanda Lester
Bernard Lilly
Lennard Murray
Eddie Ross

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
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. Approval of October 26, 2024 Board of Director Meeting Minutes will take place at the next meeting when there is a quorum present.

IV. FINANCIAL/OPERATIONS

Dr. Shelton reviewed in detail the Financial and Operational reports. The Board discussed the report throughout Dr. Shelton's presentation. She also noted that the audit was submitted to CPS on time and the recent insurance risk assessment visit from Philadelphia went very well.

Dr. Shelton also provided the Board with an update regarding the work in process to complete the migration from PECS's existing software system, Financial Edge, to a new system, FE NXT, and concerns that have been raised about the timing of revenues and expenses. She discussed vacancies and the work being done to fill them, and manage the work in the meantime. Finally, Dr. Shelton and the Board discussed various facilities issues, and their related costs, including the heater in the school's garage and the need to update elevator software.

The Board was pleased to hear that PECS remains 100% compliance with CPS regulations.

V. SCHOOL REPORT

Mrs. Johnson-Williams provided the Board with a comprehensive review of school and academic matters, which the Board discussed with her throughout.

She discussed the progress of her transition into the role of Executive Director and the transition of Principal Bellen into her role. It was noted that Principal Bellen has smoothly taken on all the responsibilities of the Principal position, with positive feedback throughout the school.

With regard to academic achievement, the Board was pleased to hear that significant progress has been made: from September to October IAR ELA increased from 24% to 48%, and IAR Math rose from 13% to 26%.

VI. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- a. Development Committee Report: Mrs. Degenaaers and Mrs. Malliband discussed Development activities and plans with the Board. They gave specifics regarding the Annual Appeal, including funds donated to date. They also discussed the work the committee is doing to re-engage the Kenilworth partnership, including with the Joseph Sears School, and to attract new donors. Finally, they invited all Directors to the annual Staff Appreciation Christmas Lunch which will be held at 1:30 PM on December 11th.
- b. Associate Board Report: Mr. Neaveill discussed with the Board the activities of the Associate Board. He noted that a new associate, Patrick Helle, has joined the Associate Board; Patrick's parents, Cynthia and Dan Helle, have been members of the Kenilworth Partnership since its inception. For the 2025 calendar year, the Associate Board is setting up a meeting cadence of one meeting per month.
- c. PECS Promise Report: Ms. Lewis discussed with the Board the PECS Promise Program. She talked about the Class of 2025 and the work in progress to review scores and high school choices with students and parents before the December 15 CPS high school application deadline. The Board celebrated news of a PECS student who achieved a remarkable score in the 99th percentile in Math on the Selective Enrollment test and scored in the 73rd percentile in Reading and also another PECS student who has been named a Daniel Murphy Scholar.

Ms. Lewis also discussed with the Board various community affairs activities, including a visit to PECS by Alderman Lopez and ongoing efforts to explore partnerships with Chicago State University and other local colleges, particularly their education departments.

VII. RECRUITING

The recruitment team discussed with the Board recruiting plans and activities. The team has had success driving re-enrollment through student handouts, robocalls, and email blasts. Additional mailings will be sent in January as the recruitment season intensifies.

VIII. GOVERNANCE

The survey regarding the number of meetings and their cadence has been reviewed. Mr. Bergmann will seek clarity on how many in-person meetings are required by CPS. The team plans to return with suggestions on the matter at the next meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting is adjourned as of 5:18 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, February 1, 2025 (9:00-11:00am) @ PECS