

Providence Englewood Charter School
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
PECS, 6515 S. Ashland Ave, Chicago, IL, 60636

Saturday, February 1, 2025
9:00 a.m.

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE IN PERSON/TELECONFERENCE

Directors

Ellen Kollar
Matt Bergmann
Caroline Degenars
Tim Dugan (Zoom)
Bernard Lilly (Zoom)
Joan Malliband
Levi Neaveill
Eddie Ross
Latasha Thomas
Arlen Wiley
Jason Zenner

DIRECTORS ABSENT

Peg Cain
Rona Fourte
Kelley Kalinich
Leonard Murray
John Stevenson
John Stoops

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
Brooke Little, PECS Associate Board
Abby Stranahan, PECS Associate Board

I. ROLL CALL/DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Mrs. Kollar.

II. Public Participation Period

No requests have been made for public participation in today's meeting.

III. On motion duly made (Thomas), and seconded (Zenner), the minutes of October 24, 2024, and December 5, 2024, were unanimously approved.

IV. GOVERNANCE

The decision regarding hosting in-person meetings is still under consideration. The final determination will be deferred until the April meeting, pending further review of the legalities surrounding the number of meetings permitted.

Additionally, some members have yet to complete the required Board training. Once the training modules are released, members are strongly encouraged to complete them promptly to ensure timely compliance. The timing for training completion is based on the date members joined the Board. If any members have already completed their required training, but it is not reflected in the records, they should notify Dr. Shelton as soon as possible so that we can coordinate with CPS to make any necessary corrections.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Mrs. Johnson-Williams provided the Board with a comprehensive review of school and academic matters, which the Board discussed with her throughout. She spoke of the negative impact of the current political situation and fear of ICE raids on PECS's students from immigrant and migrant families and the work PECS is doing to best protect our students and prepare for potential ICE visits.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams also updated the Board with regard to the Charter Renewal process and status, including highlights of PECS representatives' speeches at CPS Board meetings and the process to send to CPS letters of support for PECS.

The Board then reviewed with Mrs. Johnson-Williams the revisions that had been made since the last Board discussion to PECS's 5-Year Strategic Plan. Following this discussion, on motion duly made (Thomas), and seconded (Wiley), the Board Unanimously approved PECS's 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Mrs. Johnson-Williams then reviewed with the Board the required timelines to approve the PECS Student Handbook and Academic Calendar for the 2025-2026 school year. After discussion, on motion duly made (Zenner), and seconded (Thomas), the Board

unanimously authorized Mrs. Kollar to review and approve the 2025-26 PECS Student Handbook, including the PECS Bullying Policy, which is included in the Handbook and the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar.

Principal Bellen then provided updates to the Board on the Pre-K program, which the Board discussed with her throughout.

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.

Finally, Dr. Shelton and the Board discussed various facilities issues. She noted that all findings from the Philadelphia Insurance Risk Assessment (which was discussed at the last Board meeting) have been addressed and corrected to the best of our ability. Any building-related concerns have been communicated to CPS, though we have no control over when they will be addressed.

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

VI. RECRUITMENT REPORT

The recruitment team discussed with the Board recruiting plans and activities. They noted that there has been some attrition due to students moving out of the area and that the team's focus is now on retention and starting the reenrollment process early. They also noted that the lottery date is approaching, at which point the team's focus will shift toward new enrollment.

A major upcoming event is a meeting with Alderman Stephanie Coleman, scheduled for March 8th. Additionally, phone calls to parents have been a key strategy in securing early reenrollments. PECS currently has the second largest enrollment within a one-mile radius.

VII. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

- a. Development Committee Report: The committee expressed gratitude for a generous donation from the Basslers and the Fitzpatricks. With these contributions, PECS has met its fundraising goal for the fiscal year. However, the team's fundraising efforts continue, and PECS's annual fundraising event is still planned. To date, we have raised at least \$114K, excluding the two major donations.

The committee is actively cultivating a renewed relationship with the Kenilworth Partnership and the Joseph Sears School. As part of that effort, PECS and Sears will

begin collaborating on the "One Book, Two Schools" initiative for 2nd grade students. Additionally, a cocktail party is being organized as our first event.

- b. Associate Board Report: Mr. Neaveill provided an update on the progress of the Associate Board. He discussed new membership on the Associate Board as well as the Board's work on PECS marketing materials and strategies. The Board expressed its delight in having two Associate Board members in attendance at this meeting.
- c. PECS Promise Report: Ms. Lewis gave a brief update on the activities of PECS Promise, discussing 8th grade students' high school choices and scholarship activity as well as the status of the mentor program.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

On motion duly made (Wiley) and seconded (Malliband), the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 4:00 p.m. at Water Street, 444 W. Lake St.