

**FOLK ARTS-CULTURAL TREASURES CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
Wednesday, November 15, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Simon Liu, Rebecca Rathje, Heather Davis-Jones, Amanda Thai, Neeta Patel

Staff Present: Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa, David Brown

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Principal's Report Pheng Lim

- Folk Arts Family Night was a big success
- Pheng is a senior thought partner for a Principal who is applying to the Academy of School Leaders.
- Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA): FACTS is working out discrepancies with the School District about what DRA levels represent reading at grade level.
- Curriculum Council is analyzing the decline in SPP score
- Expecting to enroll three new Stars students

Executive Director's Report Ellen Somekawa

IV. Approval of the Minutes

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of October 18, 2017.

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Ed Nakawatase

Yes: Heather Davis-Jones, Ed Nakawatase, Simon Liu, Amanda Thai

Abstained: Neeta Patel, Rebecca Rathje, Selina Morales

V. Finance Report David Brown

- Presentation and approval of the October 31, 2017 financial statements.
 - School District still has not increased our reimbursement to reflect our increased enrollment. Although FACTS has already gotten its first adjustment, we are still not being reimbursed for additional students.
 - Income is up.
 - Projected deficit is lower than prior projection.

- Audit must be approved at the December board meeting. Audit committee will be convening

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the financial statements of October 31, 2017.

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Simon Liu, Rebecca Rathje, Heather Davis-Jones, Amanda Thai, Neeta Patel

VI. Discussion of FACTS's Role in Responding to Developments Impacting Public Education Ed Nakawatase

- Discussion

In the past, FACTS board has made statements related to fair funding of public education and the crisis of funding for public education. There are occasions when the board should make such statements. The Board should discuss what triggers might be to initiate these position statements. For example, there was the recent issue of the abolition of the SRC and the return to local control; but the board taking a stand on this was overtaken by events. Comments by the Board on such issues should be infrequent, and time should be taken to craft them.

Reasons to speak on an issue could include:

- We have standing as a charter school and some autonomy
- We are in the unusual situation of being a charter school but we represent an opinion that is sometimes different from other charter schools.
- We are on contested terrain about what charter schools represent and who we ally with.
- We believe it is important that we take stands for students as well since our role as a school is to sharpen students' understanding of citizenship.
- There are also tactical considerations involved, weighing what risks to take.

If FACTS were to make a statement, the board would determine who the statement is aimed at and whether we are communicating with the school community or broader.

Board members should not speak on behalf of the Board on public issues.

Should there be a public policy committee? Or do individual board members simply raise issues for the board to consider?

In case of a clear, gross injustice, FACTS needs to speak out.

VII. Development Committee

Rebecca Rathje

- Report on November Development Committee Meeting
Development Committee met. Debriefed the FACTS 5K. There was a big increase in raising corporate sponsors. In addition to the thank you calls and thank you letters going out now, we will send the sponsors and donors news updates. It would be useful for board members to make thank you phone calls and being the steward of those relationships that they bring to the 5K. It is important to help donors feel connected and see the impact of their gifts (e.g. maybe offering a tour of FACTS). We should aim for three contacts before we approach donors for another gift: for example, a thank you call, breakfast and a tour, a newsletter update.

We decided to move the Annual Appeal to the spring. We will still send an appeal to those who regularly make end of year gifts.

VIII. Executive Session

- Real Estate Matters
- Personnel Matters

IX. Return to Public Session

X. Adjournment

Moved: Ed Nakawatase

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Yes: Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Simon Liu, Rebecca Rathje, Heather Davis-Jones, Amanda Thai, Neeta Patel All