

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
Wednesday, May 20, 2020, 6:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth  
**Staff Present:** David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa  
**Public Present:** Nanme Zheng (interpreter)

**I. Call to Order:** Selina Morales

This week FACTS is celebrating Honor Our Elders Day which is an important day in our ritual calendar: Think about an elder you would like to honor and thank them for something. I wish for all to be able to carry on the appreciations you feel and to express your appreciation whether in person or in your thoughts.

We are honoring two elders today: Our longest serving board members: Simon Liu who has served for 15 years and Ed Nakawatase who has served 11 years. I want to honor their service and their contributions to FACTS. Simon and Ed will both be rotating off of the Board in June.

**II. Principal's Report** Pheng Lim

Pheng shared short samples of teachers' video lessons and assignment grids to give Board members a glimpse into what online learning at FACTS looks like.

Parents sharing (three board members with FACTS students)

- Face to face interactions with members of the school are incredibly emotional for the children. Morning Meetings make the child happy but bring out strong emotions; the children cry a lot on those days. Other days are less emotional.
- Third grader is struggling with spelling because the spelling issues are highlighted in red in the remote sessions. It makes it harder for the student to focus on the writing without getting hung up on the spelling. Teachers were very responsive to this concern, and started a new spelling group.
- It is chaotic. Hard for students to focus on recorded lessons and Zoom meetings. The children want to walk away. They also have teletherapy sessions, so it's a lot of screen time. On one day, Kindergartner had Morning meeting, OT, speech, so it was a lot on one day. Haven't done any specials. Also trying to work at the same time. No hours in the day. Parents are navigating everything for the children. Frustrating. Can't wait for school to be over. Appreciate what staff and admin are doing, but it is frustrating.
- Kindergarten has been difficult and frustrating. Hand holding through the whole process. Child is learning some computer skills but lacks executive skills to navigate it. Set time limits and don't make them finish work.

- We're maybe doing one Special per week
- Third grader is better able to navigate through Portals better, but not sure how much work she is submitting. Attention span of kids on screen is low.
- Hearing better feedback from upper grades where there are more live sessions.
- For lower grades, participation rate is high but submission rate is low.
- Frustrating to work at home and keep an eye on children is hard.

Discussion:

- All of the platforms present challenges. The challenges stem from the fact that children this young are not supposed to learn this way. Even if we were using a different platform, the same frustrations would be there.
- High School child on Google Classroom is also struggling sometimes and frustrated.

**Executive Director's Report**

Ellen Somekawa

[attached PowerPoint: May 2020 Board Presentation]

**III. 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 March 18, 2020.

**2. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of April 15, 2020.

Moved Resolutions #1 and #2: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Pooja Agarwal

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**IV. Finance Report**

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

We are expecting to end up close to what we budgeted despite the current situation. We have a healthy cash reserve. We are concerned about coming financial issues related to anticipated government funding cuts. The big check made out to FACTS (on the vendor list) was a transfer to our cash reserve account.

Report on the April Financial Statements

David Brown

Working on a revised budget for next year, but we are waiting for the per pupil allocation to come to out.

All FACTS families will be receiving an EBT card. Should we recommend that families who do not need this assistance donate it to someone who does need it? Note that the EBT card is not transferable and a family

would likely have to buy food and either donate the food or the cash saved to another family.

**3. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the financial statements of April 30, 2020.

Moved: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**V. Policy Committee**

Report of the Policy Committee

Pooja Agarwal

Process of Revising the Parent Involvement Policy:

- Ricque Porter, Associate Director, conducted a written survey to get parental response to our revised Parent Involvement Policy. The survey was translated into different languages.
- Ricque conducted small group meetings with parents, scheduled at different times of the day and in different languages to have conversations about parental involvement and our policy changes

Proposed revisions to the Parent Involvement Policy are due to the following factors:

- The revision reflects changes under ESSA (the federal policy that replaced No Child Left Behind)
- The revision differentiates between FACTS as an LEA and FACTS as a school. This was cited by our Title auditor, and our response was that we would revise the policy to address to these requirements
- The revision include more substance as to the efforts that FACTS does make to involve parents (the previous policy was more abstract and not specific)

**4. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revised Parent Involvement Policy.

Moved: Simon Liu

Seconded: Alan Phan

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**VI. Application for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER Fund)**

**5. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the application for the funding under the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Ed Nakawatase

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

## VII. Emergency Succession Plan

**6. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Emergency Succession Plan for the Principal.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Tim Matheney

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

## VIII. Other Action Items

**7. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with KIT Communications for the provision of a Thermal Scan Camera in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

- Need to make a communication so that families know that this is going on.
- How fast is it?
- What happens if families opt out? Would we allow families to opt out?
- Can we check students' temperatures before they get on the bus?
- From a risk management standpoint, this makes sense. We have a responsibility to all students and staff and this is a part of it.
- If someone wanted to ask for an exemption, it would fall into the same category as our vaccine exemption.
- Don't imagine a lot of push back.
- Research into policies needed.
- Do more research on other alternatives. Would be willing to pay more for it if we could find a better product.

Moved: Simon Liu

Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**8. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with T-Mobile for the provision of mobile hotspot internet connection service in an amount not to exceed \$7,000.

Moved: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

## **XI. Strategic Planning**

Thoughts on expansion

Selina Morales

- We are putting our efforts at expansion on hold for now. It is still a priority and a hope but we are not focusing on it right now during these uncertain times.
- We continue to listen for new possibilities. Some changes are not what we asked for but could spark creativity in how we advance our mission and our work.

## **X. Other Committee Reports**

Development

Alan Phan/  
Allaire Wohlgemuth

- Postponing the 5K. Will regroup in the summer.
- Remind all Board members to make your donations before the end of the year. Reach out to Ellen for your donation history and pledge amount
- Merchandise sale

Nominations

Selina Morales

June meeting will be the last meeting for Ed and Simon. Nominations Committee has been working on finding new candidates for the Board. Two candidates are being recommended for the Board. Kenzo Sung (teaches Urban Education at Rowan) and Xu Lin (Chinatown restaurant owner and former staff member of AAU). Both have a strong sense of FACTS mission and history. Their resumes will be forwarded to the Board.

Discussion: FACTS Board represents the communities we serve. Do we have plans to integrate representation from other communities into our Board?

## **XI. Adjournment**

Moved to Adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Simon Liu, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Ed Nakawatase, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth