

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 6:30 p.m.  
Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**Staff Present:** Pratima Agrawal, Jill Benowitz, David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ricque Porter, Ellen Somekawa

**Public Present:**

- I. Call to Order:** Selina Morales
- Sharing an appreciation of Principal Pheng sent by a FACTS teacher
- II. Appreciation of Tim Matheney** All
- III. Executive Director's Report** Ellen Somekawa

Discussion:

- PSSAs:
  - Can FACTS opt out of PSSAs or ask for our own waiver?
  - Can schools opt for portfolio assessment instead of PSSAs?

**Principal's Report**

Pheng Lim

- Review of FACTS: K message
- Data Presentation [slideshow]

Discussion:

- Critical question is how the report card data compares to previous years, if we want to understand the impact of remote learning.
- What accounts for the cohorts who are more behind?
- How are these skills such as "Listening" assessed in a virtual environment; could that have skewed the data? [We removed Listening from the third marking period]
- Noticed in K-4 data is the significant gap between who is meeting grade level standards in literacy and math. Much higher percentages of students on grade level in math than literacy. Was that also true pre-COVID?
  - Math in lower grades where the skills are more computational are doing better in a remote environment. In the upper grades, students report having a harder time learning math in the remote environment.
- Thank you for the thoughtfulness and for taking the time to ask the students how they are doing and feeling and for following through with students who report having a hard time.

- Many students reported liking the Small Learning Community and Explore Classes and we are looking at how we can continue those practices when we return to in-person learning.
- Can school leadership reflect on the significant decline in the percentage of students on grade level (as determined by DRAs)?
  - We are putting more resources into a cohort that is not showing growth this year. More teacher coaching, more small group intervention.
  - We put more resources into phonics instruction by changing to a new program, but this was interrupted by school closure and we did not have even a full year of implementing the program.
  - We departmentalize starting in the early grades; this year we experimented with one teacher focusing only on literacy and the other homeroom teacher teaching math as well as social studies and science.
  - FACTS is investing more time in early literacy.
- The overall DRA data showed something like 79% of students making progress. That means that 1 in 5 students are not making progress. There is much to celebrate, but that is a sobering number.
  - Appreciation to the Literacy Coordinator for pushing forward with the DRAs in the remote environment because it allows us to track student progress.
  - We need to explore what our annual summer learning loss is year to year.
- Is it possible that students who are reading above grade level are not showing up as making progress?

#### 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 January 20, 2021.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

#### V. Finance Report

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

Not many changes to our financial status. We still have a healthy cash reserve. We will need those resources to navigate expected lean times as well as extra expenditures caused by the pandemic.

Report on the Financial Statements

David Brown

Our SDP per pupil funding is still down but our expenditures are also down. The projected surplus that we budgeted is expected to remain intact.

Discussion:

- With the COVID relief grant, how does that impact the balance sheet?
  - We are still working on our ESSER II grant. We will have an update perhaps at the next Board meeting.
- Are there more COVID related expenses built into our budget, especially anticipating the supplies needed with a return to the building.
  - Yes. There is a new Health and Safety Supplies budget line, with new expenses and many of these will be covered by the ESSER I grant.
  - The decision on masks was to ask families to provide masks but that the school will have masks on hand for students without masks.

**2. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Financial Statements for the period ending January 31, 2021.

Moved: Tim Matheney

Seconded: Alan Phan

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**VI. Approval of the 990**

The Board's Role in Reviewing the Form 990

David Brown

Discussion and Questions

- Appreciation to the Finance Director for providing the 990 Checklist
- The numbers in the 990 were drawn from the audit which has already been accepted by the Board.
- The Board is responsible for accurately representing the board membership; compensation of employees in decision making capacity; policies, making sure that a majority of our funding is being spent on programs and not management; etc.
- Finance Director reviews the 990 closely for accuracy.
- Treasurer and Finance Committee look at the 990 especially with a keen eye on the narrative which is the public document that tells the story of our mission and vision as well as our financial health.

**3. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the submission of the Form 990 for the year ending June 30, 2020.

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**VII. School Reopening Discussion**

School Data that may inform the reopening decision

Pheng Lim

Discussion:

- What would experience of students whose families are electing to remain 100% remotely?
  - Their schedule would remain much the same as it is currently, but they would likely be taught by different teachers.
- Does this call on teachers to be simultaneously teaching both to students in person and remotely?
  - No
- Do you have an idea of what percentage of families will elect the hybrid in-person?
  - No; but approximately half said they would elect 100% remote in a survey in the fall.
- Do people have a chance to change their mind if they find themselves uncomfortable with their choice?
  - A parent may always elect to move their child from in-person to 100% remote, but it is not so easy to move a student from all remote to in-person.
  - We do not have that many remaining weeks of school, so we don't want parents changing back and forth between in person and remote. We are asking parents to commit to a decision.

Presentation on New CDC Guidelines:

- We feel bolstered that the new CDC guidelines align with the approach we have taken with reopening. They have presented five criteria for a safe reopening; four are totally do-able for us, and the fifth involves support from the City Health Department, but FACTS as a small community can do contact tracing.
- We have been talking about a threshold of community spread since last July. We have been using a metric averaged over seven days. The CDC guidelines use a total over seven days. Therefore our metric of 10 daily new cases or fewer per 100,000 (based on a seven day average) maps onto the CDC metric as 70 new cases total over a seven day period. Today Philadelphia is 161 cases per 100,000 which puts us in the red category. Our original proposed resolution was at 70 new cases per 100,000.

Discussion:

- Is there a reason we're not going to 99 which is the CDC guideline (orange zone)? Should we change ours to 50-99? The new CDC guideline suggests that even in red, elementary but not middle schools could be open in a hybrid model. I suggest the metric be 99 or fewer.
- The other piece that our school is missing is expanded testing. If rapid testing is not available and if we are not randomly testing students, suggest reopening is still open in the orange zone.
- There could be an amendment to change the metric for community spread to 99.
- Amendment: changing from OR to AND because community spread should always be a consideration about reopening regardless of other mitigation strategies.

- Oppose this because what we are doing is so limited for this year. Disappointed that we are only going to have students go back one day a week. There are delays in the vaccinations. If community spread is low, then we would be taking off the option of reopening for the rest of the year if not every single teacher gets both doses of vaccine.
- If we use the OR, we could have a situation where we open in red and many teachers are not vaccinated but have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.
- Amendment: want to have clarity about conditions for the need to close.
  - If adults in the building are all vaccinated, then does the rate of community spread going up a little bit warrant shutting down the whole school?
  - The experience of schools that are open is that they close based on cases or clusters in the school itself and not on community spread. Once we are open, we would recommend to not close based on fluctuations in community spread.
  - Concern about the chaos involved in moving back and forth between in person and 100% remote.
- Amendment: want to have clarity about when and how conditions are met.
- We're talking about what is our acceptable risk. How many student deaths are we okay with? What are we okay with?
  - If we're talking about the conditions under which we close, then are we being preventative or reactive? If we use community spread, then we're being preventative. As we see the numbers go up then we close down as opposed to waiting until people are already sick. Everyone will have to vote with their conscience.
- It makes sense to put forward a board resolution about reopening, but would advise not to put forward a board resolution about moving back to fully remote and instead rely on decision makers at that time.
- I am conducting a research study talking to Asst Superintendents and Superintendents and charter leaders across the country and am struck by how many have figured this out. Their students are in school, learning content and people are not getting sick. Kids, especially in the early grades, learn better in person. Many many schools including in Philadelphia are open and kids are in school multiple days a week. One school leader reported that 83% of their students are in hybrid learning. Philosophically I cannot support the idea of even one day a week in person. Others are doing more than we are proposing to do. It's a matter of conscience and I can't support this direction. Other outcomes could have occurred.
- I am committed to getting students into the building as many days as we can but recognize that the direction has been the one day a week hybrid. It is inflammatory to be talking about how many dead students are acceptable. That is not what is happening across the country. School opening has been shown to be pretty safe with precautions put in place. But we need to look at what are the risks of not being in school. My child is doing fine academically, but she hates school and is upset a lot. People have not been in a bubble the whole year, but the one risk we are not willing to take is one so important to children. Other schools have been open hybrid or even five days a week. I am frankly looking at other school

options because I can't do this another year. COVID is going to happen to some of our families regardless of whether we open in person or not.

- There are strongly held different opinions even in large cities like NYC, and often these break down along lines of class and race. There is also an undercurrent about blaming the teachers for student mental health issues, without looking at all of the factors contributing to community mental health concerns.
- If we choose the AND, and not everybody has had the chance to be vaccinated are we saying we wouldn't be willing to push the reopening date back one week?
  - At a certain point it isn't worth the heavy lift, if it will be so few days of students being in school.
- Intention of the resolution was to give Admin the information they need to act. To get our doors open in the fall takes a whole summer of preparation. To open our doors at any time takes a great deal of work. The effort is to channel, not to curtail discussion.

**4. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:

- Community Spread: If 70 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (total over 7 days)
- Or teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

Proposed Amendment: change from 70 new cases to 99 new cases:  
Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total)

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim

Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine

Abstain: Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Resolution as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:

- Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total)
- OR teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

Proposed Amendment: change OR to AND on the two conditions

Moved: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Kenzo Sung

Voted Yes: Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry

Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Voted No: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim

Matheney

Resolution as amended:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:

- Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total)
- AND teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

Proposed Amendment: clarify date by which board will decide if conditions either will be met or not. Additions in bold:

**AND verify with teachers by no later than 3/10/2021 (five weeks prior to 4/14/2021)** that any teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021. **Confirmation that this condition was met will happen during the March 17 board meeting.**

Moved: Kenzo Sung

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Voted No: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim

Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine

Proposed Amendment: clarify conditions by which school will both reopen and/or close. Additions in bold:

Community Spread: If 10 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day average)\* by March 17 board meeting. **School will return to fully remote learning if 7 day average in community spread rises above the listed opening condition.**

Moved: Alan Phan

Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Voted No: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim

Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine

Abstained: Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Resolution as Amended:

**4. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:

- Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total).
- AND teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

Moved: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim

Matheney, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine

Voted No: Selina Morales

Abstain: Allaire Wohlgemuth, Kenzo

## VIII. Approval of the 2021-22 School Calendar

Presentation  
Discussion

Ellen Somekawa

**5. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the 2021-22 School Year Calendar.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

## IX. Policy Committee

Student Admissions Policy Revision  
Presentation  
Discussion

Pooja Agarwal

**6. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision of the Student Admissions Policy.

Moved: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Xu Lin

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Employee Work From Home Guidelines and Agreement  
Presentation  
Discussion

Pooja Agarwal

Discussion:

- Do we have a preference about where people are working remotely? Can people be working from California?
- We need to think through how to handle days when individuals lose internet connection. Admin will discuss this.

**7. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Employee Work From Home Guidelines and Agreement.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Alan Phan

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

## X. Committee Reports

- Development Committee

Alan Phan

The Committee is working to recruit additional members and is working at updating the job description of the Development Committee and of members. Decided to wait to plan the Friends of FACTS activity and hope to run it in May.

**XI. Other Action Items**

**8. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Creative Development Partners for the provision of pre-development services in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

**9. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of 70 staff computers (laptops, memory upgrades, and labor) in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

**10. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of service to set up staff computers in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

**11. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of technology infrastructure (servers, back up systems, racks, etc) in an amount not to exceed \$16,000.

**12. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of service to set up new servers and backups and integrate them into existing technology infrastructure in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.

Moved 9-13: Neeta

Seconded: Kenzo

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**13. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with the following employees for the 2021-22 school year.

Moved: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Pooja Agarwal

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Ten Month Staff			
Last Name	First Name	Position	Salary 2021-22

Adams	Alexis	Specialist Teacher	50,964
Aloia Repak	Debra Ann	Homeroom Teacher	76,414
Asplundh	Marley	Interventionist	45,320
Barton	Michelle	Homeroom Teacher	70,595
Benowitz	Jill	Literary Coordinator	72,828
Birtwell	Brindusa	Homeroom Teacher	47,133
Bonitatis	Aurelia	Homeroom Teacher	67,854
Broadhurst	Dewi	Food Services Manager	51,821
Buozis	Alison	Special Education Teacher	68,854
Cavanagh	Lillian	Special Education Teacher	52,964
Della Valle	Theresa	Homeroom Teacher	83,368
Dorn	Gertrude	Teaching Assistant	37,262
Dougherty	George	Special Education Teacher	59,071
Fan	Janice	Math Coordinator	76,501
Fitzpatrick	Galen	Special Education Teacher	64,940
Franz	Rebecca Mariko	Homeroom Teacher	51,964
Green	Heather	Homeroom Teacher	67,854
Griffin Lawrence	Jacquelyn	Director of School Culture	68,453
Hudecek	Alison	Homeroom Teacher	56,777
Huynh	Judy	Homeroom Teacher	66,854
Joselyn	Eric	Specialist Teacher	87,776
Kim	Elizabeth	Homeroom Teacher	59,071
Lee	Jennifer	Special Education Teacher	73,007
Lei	Biaohua	Specialist Teacher	67,854
Ling	Daisy	Specialist Teacher	57,913
Lingenfelter	Jill	Special Education Teacher	54,542
Louie	Weixia	Special Education Teaching Assistant	33,990
Lunstead	Jennifer	Interventionist	62,686
Mai	Qilian	Food Services Assistant/Front Desk	38,268
McKoskey	Linda	Secretary	49,723
Megill Legendre	Lucinda	ELD Teacher	66,219
Morris	Patricia	Director of School Culture	62,424
Pickering	Catherine	Homeroom Teacher	58,913
Prevail	Janice	ELD Teacher	62,457

Riniti	Jessica	Homeroom Teacher	47,133
Rivera	Marisol	ELD Teacher	63,686
Schrodel	Mikki	School Counselor	63,240
Solitrin	Katherine	Homeroom Teacher	56,777
Strother	Lucia	Homeroom Teacher	54,042
Strube	Thomas	ELD Teacher	63,686
Thompson	Nahfeese	Homeroom Teacher	46,133
Tu	Sandy	Teaching Assistant	33,269
Wai	Linda	Homeroom Teacher	56,777
Warshawsky	Arielle	Homeroom Teacher	55,042
Wilkinson	Gabrielle	Homeroom Teacher	51,964
Wong	Patricia	Building Substitute	34,670
Ziebel	Rachel	Special Education Teacher	57,777
<b>Twelve Month Staff</b>			
Last Name	First Name	Position	Salary 2021-22
Agrawal	Pratima	Accountability & Assessment Mgr.	58,733
Brown	David	Finance Director	88,327
Centeno	Elizabeth	Secretary	48,166
Deafenbaugh	Linda	Folk Arts Education Specialist	62,424
Lei	Wen Chao	Technology Manager	61,200
Lim	Pheng	Principal	102,871
Nguon	Sam	Building Manager	57,369
Pankey	Lisa	Special Education Supervisor	91,264
Porter	Ricque	Associate Director	86,353
Somekawa	Ellen	Executive Director	105,419

## **XII. Adjournment**

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Alan Phan

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth