

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

MINUTES

Board members present: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Board members absent: Xu Lin

Staff present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

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| I. Call to Order: | Selina Morales |
| II. Executive Director's Report | Ellen Somekawa |
| Principal's Report | Pheng Lim |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sharing a message from an 8th grade student● Showing the digital yearbook created by 8th graders● End of year video | |
| III. Discussion of the Changing Role of Technology | Selina Morales |

This discussion will be the beginning stage of developing a vision for technology at FACTS. We want the Board to offer mission-guided and strategic vision to a new technology plan. This is a beginning conversation to help guide work that is starting this summer.

What excites you about bringing more tech into the school?

- Using GoogleClassroom, parents can now see what is being asked of students; know what they are doing in school.
- Global connections, being able to have conversations with anyone anywhere in the world. Creating human connections with people in different places.
- Different opportunities for different kids to learn in different ways and unleash their creativity. Tech can be a tool in that.
- Tech is the future. Now it is the new norm and people are needing to know how to use it to function.
- Connecting tech to elevating student voices.
- Concerned about online safety and want kids to learn this at school. More parent to school relationship about tech safety.
- Having every family with a laptop, parent-teacher conferences were so much easier for everyone to participate in. Hard for working families to participate in in-person meetings, especially if you can't bring your kids.
- Acquiring new skills aligned to standards. Can find a healthy balance of not relying too much on tech, but using it as a tool. Not using tech as a replacement.
- Student centered learning that can take place live in a classroom. Targeted instruction to student needs.

- Ability to broaden the community beyond the school perimeters. Other kids and communities could take part.
- Additional resources as ways for teachers to engage students and support families. Ability to create equitable access not only to devices but how to engage with families.
- Tech is the main way that children are exchanging folk arts among themselves.

What concerns you about bringing more tech into the school?

- How quickly screens can make children forget how to be human in the world
- This is a whole new realm of expense to the school. Without a plan to pay for it, we can't afford it. Need to live within our means. Once stimulus funding stops, what do we cut to pay for tech? We will love it, incorporate it into our curriculum and then the funding will go away.
- Having more access to tech is a way for students to learn more about safety skills in navigating the internet, but there is not the same support at home for security and safety.
- Training teachers and supporting teachers to use tech. Some people (generationally often) struggle more with tech. Tech is always upgrading. If you training one time but then do not keep more training with all of the upgrades, the organization moves onto the next shiny thing.
- Some people don't like change. If there is an agreement to move to tech, then we need to get everyone onboard.
- Kids will have access to tech so we need to be proactive in the safe use of tech.
- Uneven access: some kids needed more help but weren't able to get help from parents. Some kids will get a lot of help and other kids won't get any help, increasing the divide between students.
- Increasing anything in the curriculum results in a decrease in something else. Worry about maintaining the centrality of folk arts, social justice, community.
- Feel lucky children at FACTS don't get an education that is fashionable, but one that focuses on appreciating one another. Getting into habits of speaking directly to folks, human interaction is a priority in our curriculum—in a world that is pushing away from that.
- The practice of folk arts in communities is shifting a lot, not clear where this is headed, and technology is playing a big role in this.
- Student and teacher training on digital citizenship. Internet bullying, the permanence of what is posted on the internet. People need to be trained on the dangers of internet behavior
- Sharing of folk arts is a platform but that is different from creating and experiencing folk arts. It's a question of finding the balance. Don't want the sharing to replace the making, creating, experiencing of folk arts.
- Digital divide with kids' home situations and differential access to help from parents. If students get "coded" as a bad student online [see Ruha Benjamin's *Race After Technology*, 2019]
- How new technology is to the profession of teaching. As a teacher I don't understand how to integrate technology into my teaching effectively. Need for Professional Development opportunities so teachers don't have to learn it on their own. It's a gradual process to learn how to make this effective for students. Training must be part of this project

- Tech can be a tool but it can be a cudgel or a crutch. It is potentially addictive.
- From a teaching end, I want to be focused on looking at tech as a tool (not always the best, sometime necessary). There can be a knee jerk desire for the next new thing.

Discussion:

- This technology is approaching being old. It is now tech that I have grown up with. It isn't something new for most students, but it is part of their world. We gave the same concerns over safety when students go outside, but we don't want to be fearful everytime the door is open. The internet is just like the mall and people you don't want your kid around. Then parents decide that kids shouldn't be there by themselves.
- What are some areas where we need to create guidance?
- We need to discuss the kind of expertise and conversation we need in order to develop guidance.

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 May 19, 2021.

Moved: Kenzo Sung

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

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 May 26, 2021.

Moved: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

Voted Yes: Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Abstaining: Pooja Agarwal, Alan Phan

V. Finance Report

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

No significant change from last report. We are in good shape financially, though our positive position is inflated due to federal COVID relief funding. The surprise was that there was a small claw back in per pupil for this year.

Report on the Financial Statements

David Brown

Next year's per pupil will be about equal to that reduced per pupil amount for 2020-21. It is expected that our per pupil will go down in future years. We anticipate that the School District will be using federal stimulus funding

to cover some normal existing or planned expenses that would have counted as expenses and that are part of the calculation of what charter schools receive. When the SDP pays for these expenses using stimulus funding, those expenses will now longer count in the calculation for per pupil allocations to charter schools. This is why we have a concern over our budget projections and also over how we will pay for increased technology expenses when federal funding goes away.

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

Moved: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Pham, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VI. Board Meeting Calendar

We will decide upon the dates of Board meetings and committee meetings as well as the location of the meetings so that we can publish a Public Notice in the newspaper.

It is proposed that the Board meet on the third Wednesday of the month with an additional date on August 4, 2021: July 21, 2021; August 4, 2021; August 18, 2021; September 15, 2021; October 20, 2021; November 17, 2021; December 15, 2021; January 19, 2022; February 16, 2022; March 16, 2022; April 20, 2022; May 18, 2022; June 15, 2022 at 1023 Callowhill Street.

Committee Meetings:

- The Governance Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of every month at 1:30 pm via Zoom.
- The Development Committee will meet on the first Thursday of every month at 4:00 pm via Zoom.
- The Finance Committee will meet on the Wednesday of the week prior to the Board meeting at 12:30 pm at 1023 Callowhill Street.

Discussion:

- Can we have a Zoom option along with in person?
 - It is an option if it is the only way that a board member can attend but we do not want to establish the hybrid model as a norm.
 - The management of online participation impacts the quality of participation in the meeting.
- Can we meet on Zoom until the September meeting? [yes]

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School adopts the calendar of Board meetings for the 2021-22 school year.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Alan Phan

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Pham, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VII. Mask Policy

Does the Board wish to align our school's mask policy with the new City of Philadelphia guidance? Below is an Excerpt from the City of Philadelphia's press release:

"At 12:01 a.m., on Friday, June 11, 2021, the City of Philadelphia will end the last two COVID-19 restrictions: the indoor mask mandate and the 11:00 p.m. last call for restaurants. People who got their final dose of COVID vaccine at least two weeks ago are considered fully vaccinated, and the Health Department no longer requires that they wear masks indoors or outdoors in most settings. People who are not vaccinated or are not fully vaccinated are still strongly recommended to wear masks indoors and outdoors when around others but are no longer required to do so by Philadelphia. . .

"Lifting the requirement for vaccinated people to wear masks indoors doesn't mean that we are totally past COVID-19. Dozens of Philadelphians are still being diagnosed with COVID-19 every day, which means that more of us still need to get vaccinated.'

"Due to ongoing risk, Philadelphia will still require that masks be worn indoors in select settings, including but not limited to . . . Indoor schools."

5. BE IT RESOLVED THAT between June 18 and September 8, 2021, masks are not required indoors or outdoors for people who are fully vaccinated. People who are not vaccinated or not fully vaccinated must continue to wear masks indoors and outdoors at FACTS. While students are present for the purpose of participating in FACTS programming, masks must be worn.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Pham, Thierry Saintine

Voted No: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Abstained: Kenzo Sung

Discussion:

- Have staff been consulted about this? Do we know how they feel?
- This is allowing people to take their masks off if they are vaccinated, it is not mandating that people take off their masks.

VIII. Appointments to the Steering Committee for the Comprehensive Plan

Every three years, schools are required to complete a Comprehensive Plan. Ours is due this year. It should be completed in September so the Board can approve it for posting on our website in October and submitted to the state in November. It is a requirement that we establish a Steering Committee for both our Comprehensive Plan overall and our Professional Development Report. The Board must appoint people in three categories: parents of students attending FACTS, local business representatives, and local community representatives.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School appoints Xu Lin, Heather Davis-Jones, Neeta Patel to

the Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee and to the Professional Development Plan Steering Committee.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Pham, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

IX. Committee Reports

- Development Committee

Alan/Allaire

Board donations for 2020-21: We have met our goal to have 100% of Board members make a donation to FACTS. This is a necessity in order for us to build our donor base.

X. Other Action Items

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Pediatric Therapeutic Services for the provision of Occupational and Physical Therapy services in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Philadelphia Indemnity Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$3,000 for the provision of Accident Insurance.

9. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Selective Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$31,000 for the provision of Package Insurance (Liability, Property, Umbrella).

10. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Indian Harbor Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$11,500 for the provision of Educator Legal Liability Insurance.

11. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Hiscox Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$7,500 for the provision of Cyber Liability Insurance.

12. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Selective Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$31,000 for the provision of Workers Compensation Insurance.

13. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves hiring the following staff members:

Last Name	First Name	Position	Salary	Hiring bonus
Liang	Dinh	Instructional Building Substitute	\$ 33,000.00	\$ -
Smith	Samantha	Instructional Building Substitute	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -
Min	Melissa	ELD Teacher	\$ 57,777.00	\$ -
Park	Hye-Jung	Math/Science 6th	\$ 52,964.00	\$ 4,000.00
Mack	Olivia	Intervention	\$ 43,000.00	\$ -
Williamson	Mia	ELD 7-8	\$ 46,320.00	\$ 4,000.00
Seidel	Rachel	Kindergarten	\$ 44,000.00	\$ -
Mrljak	Sara	Special Ed	\$ 61,252.00	\$ 4,000.00
Lunstead	Jennifer	Rtl Coordinator & Coach	\$ 67,686.00	

14. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with MACCS in an amount not to exceed \$73,000 for the provision of health services.

Moved Resolutions #7 - #14: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Pham, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

XI. Executive Session

- Discussing certain public safety issues if disclosure of the information discussed would be reasonably likely to jeopardize or threaten public safety or preparedness or public protection. [Presentation of the mandated Safety and Security Practices Report]

XII. Return to Public Session

Announcements:

- We're planning our Board Retreat for July 31 at Awbury Arboretum
- 12 hour virtual training in July by the Local Learning Network on folk arts education

XIII. Adjournment

Moved to Adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Pham, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth