

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

**MINUTES**

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

**Staff Present:** David Brown, Heather Green, Ellen Somekawa

- I. Call to Order:** Selina Morales
- II. Executive Director's Report** Ellen Somekawa
- 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 June 16, 2021.

Moved as amended: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

Abstained: Xu Lin

- IV. Finance Committee Report** Neeta Patel  
Finance Committee Report

There is no approval of Financial Statements this month since June is the last month of the fiscal year and it takes time to close out the year. We anticipate closing out our year close to our budget.

Finance Director Report

The audit is in process. It is taking longer to close out the year because the big COVID relief grants are coming in, and they require meticulous bookkeeping to track where the funding is being spent. An audit committee will be convened in August or September.

- V. ARP ESSER Health and Safety Plan**

Discussion:

- Do we need to define protocols for moving to remote learning?
  - We anticipate the likelihood of exposure events and quarantines,
  - Whole school closure is unlikely unless there is a citywide close down, etc
- Will students need their Chromebooks at home?

- Daily lanyard check is a concern; will parents be able to fill these out every day? Will we end up with hundreds of students not able to start school every day because they don't have their lanyard?
  - Can we change it to a signed attestation signed at the beginning of the school year that parents will check for symptoms every day and keep student home if the student has a fever or shows symptoms?
  - Worry about kids losing their lanyards. As a parent, I was scrambling.
  - Can we learn from other schools?
    - Some schools did temperature checks at the door which is also very time consuming. And students riding the bus are already there.
    - Some schools are doing online screeners but we did not feel that this would be best for our community.
    - Some schools are focusing on routine COVID testing. Staff are mandated to be tested weekly and students are also supposed to get regular tests, but this isn't really happening due to staffing.
  - I don't know that people can be trusted for these screeners, so it might not be an effective intervention.
  - We're in a different situation from before with a big percentage of adults being vaccinated.
  - It will be a big burden for us to administer and will cut into instruction, so I don't know if it is a good trade off. Instead maybe send home a weekly message.
  - If the staff feel strongly about it, maybe we should try it. We could see how it goes and then make changes based on our experience.
  - People's attitudes about keeping kids home when sick have changed since COVID. As a parent, I kept my child home for longer and more frequently than I would have pre-COVID.
  - We implemented this during the spring and once parents learned that we are seriously enforcing it, they were able to comply. We did not have a high incidence of non-compliance in the spring.
  - The lanyards gave a helpful visual reminder of the community responsibility to maintain the safety of everyone.
  - Not opposed to it. Whatever Admin feels is what we can and should do to keep people safe is what we should do.
  - Remembering to do the screener and keeping track of the lanyard can be trained and become a morning routine for families. It is a matter of training for the parents and the students.
  - We can keep this for now and the purpose of this plan and then revisit it later.

**2. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School reviewed and approved the Health and Safety Plan on July 21, 2021.

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

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

Abstained: Pooja Agarwal

## **VI. Moving FACTS Bank Accounts**

**3. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves of moving all of its bank accounts from TD Bank in solidarity with the efforts to stop the Enbridge Line 3 Tar Sands Pipeline. The support of banks like TD Bank make possible the construction of Line 3 which endangers precious and finite water resources (boring through and under over 200 bodies of water and 22 rivers—including the Mississippi—and terminating at the Great Lakes); it violates Treaty Rights of the Ojibwe people by endangering primary areas of hunting, fishing, wild rice and cultural resources in the treaty territory; and contributes to climate change by moving tar sands, one of the dirtiest forms of fossil fuel and creating infrastructure that is intended to lock us into a commitment to tar sands for decades to come.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

Abstained: Pooja Agarwal

## **VII. Executive Session**

Considering the purchase or lease of real property

## **VIII. Return to Public Session**

### **IX. Committee Reports**

- Development Committee

Alan/Allaire

Development Committee is continuing to move forward with a Virtual 5K; want to focus on pushing the idea of people forming teams. The committee is also working on connections. NAAAP. We have 100% Board giving!

- Policy Committee

Pooja

Policy Committee is working on policies related to technology, cyber safety, tech user policies and will be putting forward policies to adopt at the August 4 meeting.

- Nominating Committee

Heather/Selina

Board members may share ideas of nominees with the Nominating Committee along with reasons for the recommendation and resume. The Nominating Committee conducts a first interview with potential nominees before making recommendations to the full board. Skill sets we are looking for now: K-12 education practitioner or school leadership, school finance/treasurer, alignment with FACTS values.

## **X. Other Action Items**

**4. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Gen3 in an amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the installation of new doors between classrooms.

**5. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Gen3 in an amount not to exceed \$18,000 for the expansion of the Art Room.

**6. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Great Minds in an amount not to exceed \$6,000 for the purchase of Eureka Math Workbooks.

**7. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with School Specialty in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the purchase of PSSA Coach Workbooks.

**8. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Emerald Business Interiors in an amount not to exceed \$15,000 for the purchase of teacher desks.

**9. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Singapore Math in an amount not to exceed \$13,000 for the purchase of workbooks.

Moved #4-9: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Kenzo Sung

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

## **XI. Adjournment**

Moved to adjourn: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Alan Phan

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