

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Wednesday, August 4, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

**MINUTES**

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

**Board Members Absent:** Neeta Patel

**Staff Present:** Ellen Somekawa

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

II. **Policies:**

**Agreement for Technology Use**

Presentation

Pooja Agarwal

Discussed how to handle good practices for Technology User Agreements (in particular lending all students Chromebooks). Wanted to make sure that the policies included our other values and policies that are important to us. Discussions revolved around fairness. We came around to a consensus that we need to put something else in place because there were so many accidents. Sometimes a fine could create a culture of care around the tech; we don't want students or families to make the assumption that devices will just be replaced with no consequences. People make assumptions that breaking or losing devices doesn't affect FACTS because we got CARES Act funding or the assumption that we have funds to replace these. We are worried about a few years down the road; how we will have the budget to replace devices. We discussed communication to families about the cost of the devices and tips for taking care of the school issued chromebooks as part of back to school communication.

Discussion

- Want to understand if and how we are going to enforce the fines or not.
- Hope students know about this and think about it; see consequences and more motivation to take care of their device.
- We might have to discuss purposeful and repeated recklessness; would we ever take away a CB?
- We would rely on relationships and would hope that families that couldn't pay a fine would communicate with us about this.
- In some Latinx communities, the idea of debt and owing money to an authority carries a lot of cultural weight; relationships of debt are to be avoided. People start taking risks to earn money to pay off debt. We want not to be cavalier about this relationship with our families. This concern is about how we implement the policy with compassion and intention, not to say that we should not pass the policy.
- Instead of punitive debt, can we frame this as together as a community we need to take care of these resources so that we do not run out. Be transparent in this document about this perspective.

- Communication about good laptop practices; we have a policy to recoup some of the costs of replacing these devices. Connect the policy with the best practices for caring for equipment and the context of sharing responsibility.
- All teachers will spend some time on best laptop practices
- How prevalent is the issue?
  - 490 students were issued CBs and we had 80 damage reports
  - We need to collect better data and insist on better reporting on our damage reports so we can clarify how damage happened.
- Important that we are getting and issuing CB cases
- What are other schools doing?
- What does FACTS do about loss of textbooks? [FACTS doesn't use textbooks much, if at all]
- Is there a clear distinction between software and hardware problems:
  - The school is very approachable about helping with computer troubles and helping to troubleshoot
- The structure of fines seems disproportionate to the issue. Three incidents leading to a \$300 fine seems out of proportion.
  - Agreed to amend the Agreement to change the wording in section 10 to "up to \$300"
- Loss of computer: should be different if it is stolen or lost in a fire, etc Should be on a case by case basis. Important thing is communication with the school
- Importance of how we implement the policy with compassion and in relationship with families. Implementing the fine policy may help families be more thoughtful about how they handle the devices.
- Must be paired with education of students and parents, compassionate implementation, encouraging communication
- We should be transparent with parents; we're looking for ways to have money to take care of our technology needs. We need to plan in a sustainable way
- We have to be careful; not every family will feel comfortable getting a police report if their device is stolen. That should be a conversation with parents and teachers.
- Technology gets outdated quickly; it will be every three years or so we need to get replacements for the whole school. This will be the bigger financial challenge for the school
- Focus is prevention, not punishment. The school should handle incidents on a case by case basis. Putting some consequences in place can help parents to remind their children to take care of the devices.
- Two number 11s;
  - Agreed to amend the Agreement to correct the numbering on the form.
- Need to collect better data
- Could we have an orientation for parents; we want parents to hear it from people they trust before they get just a piece of paper.

**1. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves adopting the Agreement for Technology Use form, as amended.

Moved: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth

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

### **Remote Work Agreement**

Presentation

Pooja Agarwal

Discussion

- The bullet point about making child care arrangements should not be listed as a rule. Agreed to delete the point

**2. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves revising the Remote Work Agreement form contained in the Work from Home Guidelines and Agreement as amended.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Alan Phan

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

### **III. Approval of the Lease Reimbursement Application**

**3. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School certifies that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, the information in the 2020-2021 Lease Reimbursement Application is true and correct.

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

### **IV. Other Action Items**

**4. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with the Vanguard School in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 for the provision of Alternative Private School services.

**5. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Amazon.com in an amount not to exceed \$5000 for the purchase of Classroom Projectors.

**6. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with VIG in an amount not to exceed \$18,000 for the purchase of Chromebooks with management licenses.

**7. BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with the Elwyn Davidson School in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for the provision of Approved Private School and one-to-one services.

Moved Resolutions #4-7: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Pooja Agarwal

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

**V. Adjournment**

Moved to Adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Kenzo Sung

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