

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Wednesday, October 20, 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, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

Public Present: Suzanna Hosein

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Principal's Report Pheng Lim

- Linda Deafenbaugh, FACTS Folk Arts Specialist addressed the American Folklore Society annual conference; her talk focused on Social and Emotional Learning and Folk Arts
- Sharing photos
- Many Points of View Day was celebrated. We have begun a process to shift MPOV. When FACTS created Many Points of View Day sixteen years ago, it was a bold stance, countering the celebration of Columbus Day, and introducing students to a critique of that holiday. Today, more and more municipalities, states, and other entities have responded to protests calling for changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day (including in Philadelphia where this is actively celebrated and even recognized by the City of Philadelphia). Now it feels like celebrating Many Points of View Day on the second Monday in October is not in solidarity with the calls for recognizing an Indigenous People's Day. This year was a transitional year when we celebrated Many Points of View Day On Indigenous People's Day.
- Chinese Christian Church & Center is allowing FACTS to use their playground space during the school day
- Teachers are creatively adapting to the needs for COVID safety: e.g.:
 - Adaptation of a science cell project
 - Adaptation of Hopes and Dreams activities such as making Bingo Boards based on high school essays
- Showing Art Project: the carp story
- Virtual 5K this Saturday
- Changes to the high school admissions process. The School District of Philadelphia is no longer basing admissions to selective high schools on PSSAs but is now basing it on lottery with preference to certain neighborhoods. It is an attempt to be more equitable regarding who gains access to special admit schools. Some of the special admit schools are not as representative of the City as they should be.
 - Don't know if this will continue under a new Superintendent

Discussion:

- Glad to hear we are talking about keeping Many Points of View Day and not just replacing it. Value it.
- Could MPOV be shifted to another day? Where are we at in terms of thinking about changing it? [At the very beginning stages of this process.]

Executive Director's Report

Ellen Somekawa

- Letter from PDE encouraging schools to set up COVID vaccine clinics for children under 12. School leadership team will discuss.

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 September 15, 2021.

Moved: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

IV. Approval of the Revised 2021-22 Budget

Presentation
Brown

Neeta PatelDavid

Revenue loss due to decreased enrollment caused by families moving out of the City; school's decision to keep density low for distancing reasons. This has caused a loss of revenue but we have been able to balance that with COVID relief funding. We have also incurred extra unforeseen expenses. The new budget reflects these revisions. When we approved the budget in May, we knew we had been allotted ESSER III funding, but we hadn't budgeted for it yet. The new budget represents a little over \$1 million in ESSER funding for new staff, retaining staff and addressing learning loss. A good amount of the funding flows through the Budgetary Reserve; to be used for contingency funds and also to push funds forward because we anticipate cuts in state revenues as they are impacted by COVID. The budget is included in the financials for September because it gives a clearer picture of where we stand.

Discussion

- Question about enrollment: what is the number or percent of decrease?
 - We are at 463 students.
 - What is the percentage decrease that represents?
- Why was there a big increase in rent services?
 - There was an increase in rent
 - We started paying \$50,000 towards real estate taxes last year. Last year we did not pay a full year of the real estate taxes.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision to the 2021-22 budget.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

V. Finance Committee Report

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

No surprises in the September financials. We are still in the process of moving funds to our new bank. Thank you to David for the clear statements and narrative. The invite to the Audit Committee will be coming out in early November; thanks to those who volunteered.

Finance Director Report

David Brown

Excited that the 5K brought in the money it raised. When budgeting, we didn't know if we should include revenue from the 5K at all.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the September 30, 2021 Financial Statements

Moved: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Alan Phan

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

VI. Continuity of Education Plan

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Continuity Plan for the 2021-22 school year.

Moved: Kenzo Sung

Seconded: Alan Phan

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

VII. Committee Reports

- Policy Committee

Pooja

Test to Stay Policy: The main topic was to adopt the Test to Stay approach. We are still only at one case of COVID in our school. The details about this approach are in the ED report.

- Development Committee

Alan/Allaire

The 5K is going well. There were many teams raising money and we exceeded our fundraising goal. Development Committee members recorded videos for the video compilation.

Discussion:

- Has anyone done their run yet?
 - Members of Team PHANTastic had a run together at FDR park.
 - West Philly met up; there were costumes, 5K shirts and it was organized by a FACTS teacher who was in extreme teacher mode (circled up), mainly FACTS teachers but also some students
 - Allaire's family went and took a 5K hike in the woods.
- Hope that people have a chance to get outside and move

- Nominations Committee

Heather/Selina

- Committee met and is working towards moving forward with some prospects. One idea is to engage people in committee work (to expand our community of caretakers of FACTS) prior to inviting onto the Board.

VIII. Other Action Items

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Philadelphia, the Fund for Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Schools Partnership to participate in the PHLConnectED Program, providing free internet access to Philadelphia K-12 students.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves payment in an amount not to exceed \$7500 to participate in the PHLConnectED Program.

Discussion:

When you get the code to reach Comcast, you can get turned away by their customer service staff people. You are not supposed to be barred from access due to outstanding bills

Moved Resolutions #5-6: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

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

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Global Retirement Partnerships in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 for the management of FACTS retirement accounts.

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Alan Phan

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

IX. Executive Session

Considering the purchase or lease of real property.

X. Return to Public Session

XII. Adjournment

Moved to Adjourn: Alan Phan

Seconded: Kenzo Sung

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