

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

1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123

Wednesday, July 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

MINUTES

Present: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Board Members Absent: Pooja Agarwal, Alan Phan

Staff Present: David Brown, Ricque Porter, Ellen Somekawa

Public Present: Heather Green

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Swearing in Jeffrey Koung Selina Morales

"I do solemnly swear that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth, and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity."

III. Public Session

- No public comments

IV. 5K Working Session

Engaging all Board members in 5K fundraising

Allaire/Ricque

FACTS website is updated with the most recent 5K information, including two new videos created by parent volunteer, John Gerbec. One is a montage of past races to generate participant enthusiasm. The other is aimed at sponsors and why you should sponsor the FACTS 5K. Board members are encouraged to reach out to potential sponsors.

Run the Day website is also set up. You can donate, register, and set up a team on this website. Board members are encouraged to set up teams as a way of increasing participants and fundraising.

We have raised \$35,000 and more in past years and we should be able to reach this goal. We need every board member to participate in 5K fundraising. All Board members will split up our list of sponsors to reach out to. It's important to reach out to sponsors early. There is a hard deadline for sponsors to get their names or logos on the tshirt. Many larger companies need some time to decide on a sponsorship. Sponsors will get more out of their sponsorship if the outreach happens early. Please use the googledoc spreadsheet to coordinate the outreach to sponsors so we do not duplicate asks. Ricque will send sponsorship materials to board members in an email tomorrow. Would like all board members to commit to bringing in two sponsorships or to convince an existing sponsor to bump up to a higher level.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Ellen Somekawa

Envisioning next year:

- Anticipate next year being somewhat similar to this year; with possibility of some amount of COVID shut downs.
 - New variants make ongoing COVID cases likely
- Now shifting to a mentality of living with the virus. No longer a situation of avoiding spread of COVID at all cost
 - There are other considerations to put into the balance: try to make the experience in schooling to maximize learning and also social interaction and emotional supports
 - We can reverse these decisions; we can communicate changes to parents if we need to get stricter
 - We are moving to the broader societal trend: manage your own needs and your own level of anxiety/risk taking
 - Everyone in the school has the opportunity to get vaccinated and the consequences of getting COVID are not as severe as they were

COVID mitigations for next year

- Emphasize staying home when sick but discontinue system of parents filling out screeners every day on student lanyards
- Masks optional (unless there is a government edict)
- Mask to Stay, not Test to Stay
 - Do Test to Stay for close household contacts.
 - Do Mask to Stay for others
- Move to five day isolation/quarantine instead of ten day
- Discontinue concurrent instruction
 - Instruction is compromised. We would rather have higher quality instruction.
 - With the quarantine and isolation period being reduced, there is not so much instruction that is lost
- Continue to be ready to shift entire classrooms or the school to remote instruction
- Stop contact tracing
 - Continue to monitor for clusters of cases. Work with the Philadelphia Department of Public Health if we begin to see any clusters of cases or a high rate in any classroom or the school as a whole.
- Offer testing on a more limited basis:
 - Only if symptomatic
 - If parents don't have the ability to test
 - Mandatory 3x a week for unvaccinated staff

- Continue with line order and seating charts but discontinue strict cohorting
 - Outdoor recess will be mixed classes
- Discontinue desks spaced 3 feet apart (may put desks in groups or in pairs, not all facing forwards)
- Go back to gathering for story time on mats

Discussion:

- Will we be able to bring folk arts ensembles back?
 - We are working to bring back as much of our folk arts program as possible. However we will not be able to bring back folk arts ensembles (mixed grade folk arts opportunities for students to elect to take for a year or more) because of the complexities of scheduling. We are still trying to problem solve how to bring back as much of this signature program as we are able, but for next year we will not be able to reintroduce our folk arts ensemble program in its pre-pandemic form

V. 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 15, 2022.

Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

Voted Yes: Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Abstaining: Leana Cabral, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung

VI. Election of Officers

Report on the Nominations of Officers

Selina Morales

These are the nominations to date:

- Chair: Selina Morales
- Vice Chair: Neeta Patel
- Secretary: Heather Davis-Jones
- Treasurer: Neeta Patel

Other nominations?

- None

Discussion:

- Expression of appreciation to the officers for their service to the organization

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School appoints Selina Morales to the position of Board Chair for a one year term.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School appoints Neeta Patel to the position of Vice Chair for a one year term.

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School appoints Heather Davis-Jones to the position of Secretary for a one year term.

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School appoints Neeta Patel to the position of Treasurer for a one year term.

Moved Resolutions #2-#5: Xu Lin

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VII. Finance Report

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

As is customary, the Board will not review the June financial statements at its July meeting. Because June is the last month of the fiscal year, it takes more time to finalize the financial statements. The Board will review and approve the June financial statements at a later date.

There are no new surprises. We discussed the per pupil allocation for 2021-22 (up a little) and 2022-23 (down a lot) at the last meeting. The loss from this decrease in the per pupil allotment for 2022-23 is \$277,000. The decrease in per pupil impacts not only that year, but all years moving forward. We are ending the year with an operational deficit which will be offset with ESSER funding.

Discussion:

- How many years do we have the ESSER funding?
 - It will go away in the 2023-24 year
- We are hearing that the PA budget will result in a big boost in public school funding, but things are still very unpredictable.
- Next school year, our enrollment will be up from this year.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the financial statements of May 31, 2022.

Moved Resolution #6: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Abstained: Jeff Koung

VIII. Lease Reimbursement Affirmation

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School certifies that to the best of its knowledge, the application for the PA Lease Reimbursement Program is true and correct.

Moved Resolutions #7: Xu Lin

Seconded: Nancy Nguyen

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Abstained: Jeff Koung

IX. Executive Session

- Considering the purchase or lease of real property.

X. Return to Public Session

XI. Committee Reports

- Policy Committee Ellen
- Salary Scale Committee Thierry

The committee met three times. The work of the committee focuses on the teacher salary scale and not the entirety of staff compensation. The current thinking of the Salary Scale Committee is the following:

The FACTS Board of Trustees and administration recognize the need to create a more structured and predictable approach to making adjustments to our teacher salary scale. Although school funding is unpredictable, we understand that we must make a commitment to improving teacher compensation. This commitment must become embedded in our budgeting and long term planning process.

Every three years, there will be an adjustment to the salary scale of a minimum of \$1000 to every step of the salary scale.

- The increase will be by a dollar amount and not a percentage in order to more equitably share the increases across the range of the pay scale.
- The Board of Trustees will set the amount of the increase in the spring so that adjustments can be reflected in the contracts and offers that are made for the following school year.
- This structural adjustment will be in addition to, and not a replacement for, changes to the salary scale that are made by the periodic review of the scale by FACTS's Salary Scale Committee.

This process will begin in the 2023-24 school year.

Discussion:

- Think that it's a good idea to structure in increases
- Where does this put us in terms of competitiveness?
 - This will not close the gap with the School District of Philadelphia and many other charter schools.
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- This is a good first step to make.
- It's a wake of showing our commitment even though it doesn't catch us up.
- The Development Committee is looking at diversifying funding sources as well.
- FACTS seeks to change its practices and make a commitment to an increase in the salary scale on a regular basis.
- Board has a positive response to the direction the Salary Scale Committee is taking

XII. Other Action Items

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Selective Way Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for the provision of Package Insurance (Liability, Property, Umbrella).

9. 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 \$12,000 for the provision of Educators Legal Liability insurance coverage.

10. 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 coverage.

11. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Selective Way Insurance Company in an amount not to exceed \$35,000 for the provision of Workers Compensation insurance coverage.

12. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Enspire for a two year contract in an amount not to exceed \$65,000 for the provision of school psychologist services.

13. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Interstate Building Maintenance in an amount not to exceed \$110,000 for the provision of cleaning services.

14. 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 \$11,000 for the provision of math workbooks.

15. 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 \$6,000 for the provision of PSSA preparation materials.

16. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Talking Points in an amount not to exceed \$9,000 (\$3,000/ year for 3 years) for the provision of texting translation services.

Moved Resolutions #8-#16: Nancy Nguyen

Seconded: Thierry Saintine

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

17. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Green Tree School and Services for the provision of Approved Private School educational services in an amount not to exceed \$63,000.

18. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Elwyn Davidson School for the provision of Approved Private School educational services in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.

Moved Resolutions #17-#18: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Seconded: Kenzo Sung

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

19. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Funds for Learning for the provision of E-Rate consulting services in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.

20. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School authorizes Funds for Learning to act as agent and on behalf of FACTS for all E-Rate matters.

Moved Resolutions #19-#20: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

21. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with DG Network Solutions for the provision of IT services in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.

22. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves applying to the National Endowment for the Arts for a grant in the amount of \$50,000 to support the folk arts education program.

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

24. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with VIG Solutions for the provision of 30 Chromebooks with management licenses in an amount not to exceed \$9,000.

Moved Resolutions #21-#24: Thierry Saintine

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

25. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School reaffirms the Anti-Bullying Policy (last amended June 15, 2011 and last reaffirmed August 21, 2019).

Moved: Nancy Nguyen

Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

XIII. Adjournment

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Leana Cabral, Heather Davis-Jones, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Nancy Nguyen, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth