I. **Call to Order:** Neeta Patel

II. **Swearing in of new Board members**

I, Kenzo Sung, do solemnly affirm 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.

I, Xu Lin, do solemnly affirm 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. **Principal's Report** Pheng Lim

Working hard on planning the re-opening
- Shared updates of our plans with staff: using data to guide us, we are leaning towards the hybrid model or full virtual depending on how the pandemic is impacting Philadelphia

A parent meeting will be held on July 20, with different zoom meetings in different language groups
Summer Programs have started

Discussion:
- Will FACTS be offered an all online option?
  - SDP is not offering 100% remote in the individual school buildings, but will offer a centralized online academy with a curriculum that isn’t necessarily tied to their own school's curriculum. Parents need to commit to a full quarter and then can choose to transition back to their school.
  - FACTS is researching live streaming technology options.
- In the hybrid model, what will instruction look like?
  - Probably will be a combination of synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning.
- What is FACTS doing about immuno-compromised staff?
Staff concerns were raised following the staff meeting: Admin is crafting responses to staff. We need to balance being responsive to staff concerns with our need to focus our work.

- Will windowless rooms be used?
- Has there been consideration of having younger students in school and older students more remote?
  - The math of it doesn’t work. We have too many younger students to create reduced density with that model.

Executive Director’s Report

Ellen Somekawa

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 June 17, 2020.

   Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Seconded: Pooja Agarwal
   Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung
   Abstained: Xu Lin

V. Finance Report

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

The Finance Committee did not meet in July. David is focused on closing out the year.

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.

VI. Strategic Planning Process

Debriefing the Strategic Planning Session

Selina Morales

A goal was to create connections between board members and staff. How did people feel?

- Break out sessions allowed time to interact with staff and get to know people and learn their perspectives and concerns.
- Felt affirmed by where we are as a group in our mission and the kind of community we want to build. This is important in this time as we’re faced with such big challenges.
- First time meeting staff and teachers. Discussions were all over the place: from social issues to how to do online learning. We need to do more focused follow-ups on specific topics. e.g. one on social justice, another on online learning, etc. because all need time for in-depth discussion.
- Nice to hear directly from staff. Would have wanted to have mixed up the groups to hear from a variety of staff members. Found the notetaking process confusing because the questions were overlapping. Hard to write on one Googledoc at the same time.
Got to see my child’ teacher, and it was good to hear her perspective. The time went so quickly. Appreciated people’s commitment to FACTS to meet for three hours on a Saturday.

Best thing was talking to staff. Found them bright and thoughtful and the board was also humanized. Some questions could have been sharpened a bit. The challenge of wanting to create room for new insights while keeping the conversation moving forward.

Well organized and facilitated. Got to meet staff members. We are facing the pandemic of our lives, but staff’s spirits were there. They were engaged and it was energizing.

Appreciated getting to know a newer staff member. Successful in connecting people.

Repetitiveness of the questions: because the staff is so present with the mission, the intent was to have the second half push deeply into what the mission calls us to do in this moment. It turned out that the discussion went there very quickly in the first half of the meeting.

I hope that we can use this tool of Zoom to keep parents more connected to the school.

Next Steps: Steering Committee will review the notes and plan a second gathering to generate more concrete steps.

VII. Committee Reports

- Nominations
  - Selina Morales
  - Heather has joined the committee. Will be working on generating a good list of new candidates.

- Development
  - Allaire Wohlgemuth
  - Development Committee met to discuss what can be done in the current context. Talked about the 5K for October 2021. We need to be able to get more large corporate donors. Working on expanding the Development Committee. Reaching out to past 5K participants to say we aren’t doing the 5K this year but plan to do it in 2021.

  Discussion:
  - Maybe add to our messaging, if FACTS is part of your annual giving, consider giving. We need it more now than ever.
  - Could we segment our list into those who have been giving more in the past? They may be well positioned to give. It isn’t an insult to get asked.
  - A communication to corporate sponsors: we aren’t doing the 5K this year but keep us in mind.
  - Maybe sending our WHYY Movers and Makers Segment would be a way of connecting with donors.

- Policy Committee
  - Pooja Agarwal
  - We have many policies to approve next month. We are short a member and could use help on a temporary basis if any other Board members want to join in. [Tim volunteered to join the Policy Committee for two months]
VIII. Lease Reimbursement Affirmation

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves applying for the Pennsylvania Lease Reimbursement Program and affirms that the rent paid by FACTS in fy2019-20 was $627,812.50.

   Moved: Alan Phan
   Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones
   Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung

IX. Other Action Items

4. 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 $7,000.

5. 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.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves entering into an agreement with the University of the Arts for the provision of student teachers.

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with BTC foods for the provision of school lunches in an amount increased from the previously approved amount of $200,000 to $240,000. [the approved amount at the last Board meeting does not cover the increased cost of individually packaging meals and providing frozen meals for students to take home]

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with A-One Asphalt Paving LLC in an amount not to exceed $6,000 [this bid came in below the previously approved contractor’s bid]

9. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Enspire Consulting for the provision of School Psychologist services in an amount not to exceed $45,000.

10. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Nyman Associates for the provision of Speech Language Pathology services in an amount not to exceed $120,000.

11. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Today’s Classroom LLC for the provision of student desks in an amount not to exceed $5,000.
12. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Global Industrial for the provision of bottle fillers in an amount not to exceed $5500.  [Two quotes received, including one approved by CoStars. This is the cheaper bid]

13. 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 Chromebooks in an amount not to exceed $95,000.  [Three quotes received. This is the cheapest bid and is able to supply the quantity we need in a more timely way]

14. 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 Chromebooks Charging stations in an amount not to exceed $10,000.  [Three bids received; this is the cheapest.]

Moved #4 -14: Heather Davis-Jones  
Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth  
Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung

Discussion:

- Are we rethinking the purchase of the thermal scan camera?
  - Our funds could be better spent on other safety measures like buying each child a face shield, extra masks, etc.
  - Ask parents to be responsible for checking children’s temperatures at home.
  - Ask if anyone else in the household is showing symptoms.
  - Decision to not move ahead with thermal scan camera.

XI. Adjournment

Moved to adjourn: Allaire Wohlgemuth  
Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones  
Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung
FOLK ARTS-CULTURAL TREASURES CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
Wednesday, August 19, 2020, 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

MINUTES

Present: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- Started New Teacher Orientation today. Four new teachers attended.
- Next week, full staff return with a full ten days of training and planning. This extended time is much needed.
- Parent Meeting Thursday night to update parents on school reopening

Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa

- With troubles in the postal service, we are having to rethink how we are communicating with parents. Our most recent parent questionnaire was very delayed in reaching families

III. Questions and Answers/Discussion about School Re-opening and Pandemic Planning

IV. Policy Committee Pooja Agarwal

V. Approval of the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors/Trustees for the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School reviewed and approved the Phased School Reopening Health and Safety Plan on August 19, 2020. [do not group with other resolutions]

   Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Seconded: Tim Matheney
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VI. Affirmations regarding the Emergency Instructional Time

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors/Trustees for the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Proposed Hybrid Model Schedule and affirms that:
The proposed school calendar and academic schedule(s) will provide all students the planned instruction needed to attain the relevant academic standards set forth in Chapter 4.

The proposed school calendar and academic schedule(s) allow sufficient instructional time needed for content mastery and provide instructional blocks for each grade level and content area.

The proposed school calendar and academic schedule(s) provide at least 900 (elementary) and 990 hours (secondary) of in-person instruction and/or remote learning for all students. (Such time may include synchronous and/or asynchronous instruction.) [NOTE: According to Charter School Law, charter schools are required to provide either 180 instructional days or 990 hours (secondary) and 900 hours (elementary). We have scheduled 180 instructional days and so do not need to meet this hourly requirement.]

The proposed school calendar and academic schedule(s) define instructional time for students as time in the school day devoted to instruction and instructional activities under the direction of certified school employees. (Such time may include synchronous and/or asynchronous activities.)

Clearly defined systems for tracking attendance and instructional time will be implemented to ensure student engagement in remote instruction.

The LEA acknowledges it must provide Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) during this pandemic emergency.

The proposed school calendar and academic schedule(s) ensures ESL services for English Learners.

Clearly defined and ongoing systems for evaluating the quality and outcomes of instructional delivery will be implemented, at least quarterly, and necessary adjustments will be made when data highlight concerns about quality, equity and/or lack of progress in student learning.

Moved: Neeta Patel
Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VII. Covid-19 Related Policies

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Temporary Addendum to the Employee Handbook.

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Face Mask Protocol.

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Cleaning, Sanitizing, and Disinfecting Protocols.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors/Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Presumptive and Confirmed COVID-19 Case Protocol.
VIII. School Calendar

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision to the School Calendar.

Discussion:
- It is a concern that there are long blocks of time in March and April with no days off for students and staff. This is a concern about staff members’ well-being.
- It was hard to create the calendar with 180 days and still honor the last day of work that was included in employee contracts already signed.
- If we get new guidance on the days and hours requirements, will we be able to revisit the calendar?
- Can we change Snow Days into virtual days?

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Kenzo Sung
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

IX. Approval of the Minutes

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes of July 15, 2020.

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Pooja Agarwal
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

X. Finance Report
Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

We ended the year exceeding our surplus expectations. There were savings in operating expenses due to not being in the building. We are well situated in terms of operating cash, and it is liquid. It is good that we ended the year strongly because there are many new Covid related expenses in the current fiscal year. The Finance Committee discussed moving money in search of higher interest rates, but decided there is too much uncertainty at this time and will keep our investments where they are.

Approval of the June/Year End Financial Statements
David Brown
9. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the June 30, 2020 Financial Statements

   Moved: Tim Matheney  
   Seconded: Alan Phan  
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

XI. **Committee Reports**

   ● Nominations  Selina Morales

   Heather joined the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is interviewing new candidates. Board members should feel free to forward recommendations for future board members to the Committee.

   Discussion:

   ● Are there any particular trajectories the Nominating Committee is looking for at this juncture in terms of priorities of characteristics of new nominees?

   ● Development  Alan/Allaire

   Other priorities kept the committee from meeting. Congratulations to FACTS on receiving the NOVO SEL Grant which was very competitive.

XII. **Other Action Items**

10. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision to the Title IX Policy.

11. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Todd Electric LLC for the provision of electrical services in an amount not to exceed $11,000.

12. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves accepting a SEL in Action Grant in the amount of $25,000 from the NOVO Foundation, Education First, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

13. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves renewing the lease for 1023 Callowhill Street for a term of five years. The annual rent paid on a monthly basis is as follows:

   Year 1: 09/01/2020 to 08/31/2021 is $646,134;  
   Year 2: 09/01/2021 to 08/31/2022 is $662,288;  
   Year 3: 09/01/2022 to 08/31/2023 is $675,533;  
   Year 4: 09/01/2023 to 08/31/2024 is $689,044; and  
   Year 5: 09/01/2024 to 08/31/2025 is $702,825.
In addition, FACTS agrees to pay $50,000 of the property taxes and in the event of an increase in property taxes, FACTS and the landlord will split the cost of the increase.

14. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Ferguson Enterprises, LLC for the provision of four multi-user hand-washing stations in an amount not to exceed $19,000.

15. **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 200 Chromebook Management Licenses in an amount not to exceed $5,000.

16. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Singer Equipment Company for the provision of two freezers in an amount not to exceed $9,500.

17. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with School Specialty for the provision of PSSA Test Prep workbooks in an amount not to exceed $4,500.

18. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with No. 1 Express Cleaning for the provision of deep cleaning services and the washing and waxing of all floors in an amount not to exceed $30,000.

19. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the adoption of the Tuberculosis Screening Policy.

20. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves requesting a waiver of the requirement for routine tuberculosis skin testing of students as per the PA Department of Health recommendation of November 12, 1997

Discussion:

- SEL Grant: Is there a team to enact this?
- What is the best way for Board members to make donations to support the purchase of extra supplies needed?
  - Due to the riskiness of mail right now, we recommend making donations by PayPal.
- When will Board Pledge forms be coming out?

Moved #10 - 20: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Neeta Patel
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

XIII. Adjournment
Moved to adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Neeta Patel
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
MINUTES

Present: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa
Public Present: Andrew Lee

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales


II. Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- Seven days in
- Attendance has been 96-98% daily
- BTSN: next week: split into two nights K-4; and 5-8
- Packet Pick-ups will be next week: All families are required to come by FACTS to pick up workbooks, and other resources for learning
- Minor incidents of Zoom crashers last week
  - Passcodes were changed and we are transitioning to accessing Zoom sessions via Google Calendar
- DRA (Developmental Reading Assessment) is going on. This will give us a baseline assessment for all students. We are anticipating that there will be a learning loss from the school closure.
- Universal Screeners in math are being given next week
- Enrollment: we have ten slots to fill
- We had a Kindergarten drive through and virtual meet and greet
- Thank you to Neeta, T. Vince, T. Ray, and six teacher tech leaders who are helping FACTS transition to Google Suites and Google Classroom
- Some positive feedback from students on Google Classroom. Some students reported having more confidence and calm about navigating getting to class
- Third grade classroom: what is something that is going well; “the night before school I was filled with joy and almost cried, looking forward to school.”
- It is hard for younger students, K-3. Teachers are enthusiastic and creative, but remote learning is hard for the youngest students especially.
Discussion of the first week and a half of school: attendance, high points, challenges. Parents’ view:

- First grader is struggling; fourth grader has been more successful.
- Tech Pick up went really smoothly; set up was simple and easy to get up and running. First grade child is accessing instruction at her day care. Reported for the first time feeling sleepy during one class. Got a prize for sticking to it all day long.
- First grader and a fourth grader. Harder for the younger child. Very hard. Mistakenly went to the wrong class today.
- First grader and fourth grader. Fourth grader was taught to use email and had his first chance to connect with his friends, so he started sending emails to his friends in breaks between classes. Nice that the teacher opened up the possibility for students to connect with their friends.

Executive Director’s Report

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 August 19, 2020.

   Moved: Neeta Patel
   Seconded: Pooja Agarwal
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

IV. **Finance Report**

   Finance Committee Report
   Approval of the August Financial Statements

   Neeta Patel
   David Brown

   This is a busy time and we are in the middle of our audit. Need to revise our budget. Financial statements give a good idea of our cash flow and financial position, but we need to review how the pandemic has impacted our finances. There is a big accounts receivable. We may owe some to the School District since our enrollment is smaller this year than last year. This happens every year, and we will watch cash flow when this is happening.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the August 31, 2020 Financial Statements

   Moved: Tim Matheney
   Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
V. Discussion of the Stars Program and Enrollment Numbers

Have we looked at other recruitment strategies? Share with social workers at different schools, other refugee resettlement agencies.

- Start by assessing: how do we see the mission of the school as related to the Stars program, broad questions, how is this program working to fulfill our mission, where have problems arisen
- Allaire, Neeta, Kenzo would like to join the discussion
- Is the discussion about how to recruit more students or about whether the program should exist? Is the issue getting the numbers up?
- The program became the solution to a number of knotty issues we were facing several years ago: our demographic composition (decline in English Learner population), financial sustainability, and needs of students.
- There are unforeseen issues introduced by the program such as overcrowding of our middle school

VI. Parent Involvement Initiative

Selina Morales

- Parents on the Board would like to initiate a Board convened parent group that would focus on racial equity at home (not focused on what’s happening at school): resources, conversation, tools for parenting with a focus on racial equity. Would fill some needs in the FACTS community. Parent engagement could be an area for growth for FACTS. This would be a committee connected through the Board more than through the staff.
  - Discussion: What initiatives has the school made? What have the past efforts been?
    - School was founded out of racial equity perspective and many school practices reflect that. That’s a baseline of where our school stands and where our mission is grounded.
    - In May, FACTS invited parents to participate in discussions of racial justice issues. Found that there was not shared language or shared values, but families sharing stories and their own experiences helped students and families gain understanding and hear different perspectives
    - This is what has attracted some families to FACTS
    - Majority Asian school uniquely positions FACTS. There is so much diversity within the Asian American community (ethnically, generationally, etc.)
- The idea of neighborhood or online meet ups that allow children in small groups to interact in a playful way
  - Question of how to be inclusive
- Opportunities for parents to engage/connect with each other?

VII. Committee Reports
• Development Committee
  Alan/Allaire
  • No report

• Policy Committee
  Pooja Agarwal
  • No report

• Nominations Committee
  Selina/Heather
  • Meeting with a potential board candidate next month

VIII. Approval of Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding

Explanatory Message from the School District: “Each year, the Charter Schools Office (CSO) and District Performance Office (DPO) engage the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) and others to access various student level academic performance data from charter schools. That data is then used to determine the school's performance on various metrics such as PSSA proficiency rates, matriculation rates, and others. Accessing that data is critical to developing reports that contextualize the performance of a school relative to the performance of other schools in the city. Additionally, access to the student level data enables us to report on the performance of various student groups, including historically underserved groups. In order for a charter school to receive complete reports, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) must be agreed upon between the charter school and the District, which allows the District to access data needed for reports. This data is used in the Annual Charter Evaluation (ACE) Report, Renewal Evaluation Report (ACE-R) using the Charter School Performance Framework (Framework), and District reports, such as the School Progress Report (SPR).”

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding with the School District of Philadelphia.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal
Seconded: Tim Matheney
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

IX. Need to schedule a Special Meeting of the Board

FACTS’s Title I Program Schoolwide Plan is due on October 9 and must be approved by the Board. Admin could not complete the plan in time for approval at the September meeting. We propose scheduling a Special Meeting the last week of September/first week of October to approve the plan. The plan will be circulated in advance.

9/28/2020 Monday: Sept 7:30 pm
X. Other Action Items

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Kone Elevator for the provision of passenger elevator updates in an amount not to exceed $11,272.

5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Todd Electric for the provision of electrical inspection and repairs in an amount not to exceed $10,000.

6. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Educonfident (now named Innovageous) for the provision of consulting and training services related to the transition to Google Classroom and Google Suites in an amount not to exceed $8800.

7. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with WB Mason for the provision of school supplies in an amount not to exceed $15,000.

8. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Great Minds for the provision of PSSA test prep materials in an amount not to exceed $5564.

9. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with No. 1 Express Cleaning for the provision of custodial services in an amount not to exceed $45,000.

10. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Global Retirement Services for the provision of investment advisory services in an amount not to exceed $5,000.

11. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Gamut Early Intervention Services for the provision of therapeutic services in an amount not to exceed $85,000.

12. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Zoom for the provision of paid teacher and administrator accounts in an amount not to exceed $5500.

Moved #4-12: Allaire Wohlgemuth
Seconded: Neeta Patel
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

XI. Adjournment

Moved to Adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
FOLK ARTS-CULTURAL TREASURES CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
Wednesday, September 28, 2020, 7:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

MINUTES

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

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Health Screening Policy
Presentation Ellen Somekawa
Discussion

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision to the Health Screening Policy.

   Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Seconded: Pooja Agarwal
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

III. Title I Schoolwide Plan
Presentation Ellen Somekawa
Discussion

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Title I Schoolwide Plan.

   Moved: Heather Davis-Jones
   Seconded: Neeta Patel
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

IV. Adjournment

   Moved: Heather Davis-Jones
   Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
MINUTES

Present: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung
Not Present: Allaire Wohlgemuth
Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- Many Points of View Day: Had our first whole school remote assembly. Many Points of View Day is for students to learn there are many points of view, sharpen skills to see things from other’s point of view, build empathy, recognize when some voices are marginalized and when someone else’s perspective is hurtful to others, what to do
  - Our anti-bias PD focused on reviewing MPOV lessons through an anti-bias lens. We provided guiding questions for teachers to use in reviewing their lesson plans and provided time to work to make improvements to lessons.
- Mondays, Grades 5-8: folk arts classes give students a chance to learn from six different artists. Vietnamese zither, Jump, Step, Kung Fu, Found Sound Rhythms, Han Chinese Dance, Traditions of India, Indonesian Dance, Yoga and Relaxation, Hip Hop, West African Dance, Circus Arts
- Mini-Grant from Jounce: getting support with how to make virtual lesson plans virtually and use all adults in supporting student learning
- Pheng was featured in an article in the Philadelphia Inquirer about the challenges of remote teaching and learning
- Have gathered baseline data for math and reading in order to identify student who are struggling academically and need small group support
- Started using Talking Points to communicate with parents, a way to communicate with parents with quick translation through text messaging
- Next week is the second round of distribution of supplies and packets (including physical books) collecting packets which can be used for assessment
- Why we’re having high rates of attendance and participation is the quality of relationships built with students and the level of trust we’ve built with students and parents

Discussion:
- Does the school plan more school wide assemblies? Was the MPOV Assembly effective? We had to divide by strand because of the limits of our Zoom sizes. Ability to see everyone together is a positive. If using a webinar format to get the whole school in one assembly, we lose the ability
to see all of the faces. We are working to learn how to capture the heart of the school in the remote setting.

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 September 16, 2020.

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 September 28, 2020.

Moved Resolutions 1 and 2: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Alan Phan
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung

IV. Revision of the 2020-21 Budget

Presentation

David Brown

At the time of the passage of the budget last spring, we did not yet know the per pupil allocation or the impact of the Covid pandemic on the school's finances. In the revised budget, income was adjusted for things that had to be cancelled such as the 5K, and expenses for cancelled events like field trips were reduced. The bottom line is not very different from the original budget. We are still expecting to run a surplus. For the five year projection, we are budgeting for a flat per pupil rate because we don't know the impact of the pandemic and the economic downturn on school funding.

Discussion:

- A school in New Jersey reported that they were able to use Medicaid reimbursements to pay for school meals. Is that possible for us?
- The food program is currently serving fewer than half of the students formerly participating.
- Will Covid related grant funds cover all of our Covid related expenses or a majority of it?
  - Some of the expenses not covered will be online subscriptions. Many of the Covid related expenses will be covered by the grant funding.
  - Two instructional supports were covered by the grant. In addition to facilities changes and Covid related supplies, we were able to support two teaching staff to provide additional supports to students who are struggling.
  - The fiscal cliff is still looming. The PA Coalition of Public Charter Schools received a $30 million fund for charter expansions. Is there any thought of trying to seek funding from this source?
  - Are we fully enrolled now? The Stars program is smaller.
3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision to the 2020-21 Budget.

Moved: Neeta Patel  
Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones  
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung

V. **Finance Report**  
Finance Committee Report Neeta Patel

Thanks to the Finance Director for putting forward the revised budget which helps us to better plan our way forward. FACTS is in good shape, with cash on hand. Many of the outstanding receivables have come in. The budget seems solid for this year. However, there are many unknowns related to longer term projections.

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the September 30, 2020 Financial Statements

Moved: Pooja Agarwal  
Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones  
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung

Constitution of the Audit Committee Neeta Patel

We are in the middle of the audit process. The audit report is in process of being drafted. The audit needs to be approved at the November meeting.

Tim and Neeta will serve on the audit committee.

VI. **Policy Committee**  
Report of the Committee meeting Pooja Agarwal

The Policy Committee met to discuss reopening criteria, parameters and timelines. The discussion is captured in the report.

Discussion and Questions:

**WHAT DO PARENT SURVEY DATA REVEAL?**

- Parent comments on the survey were helpful but didn't point to a direction about reopening  
- There is a big difference in the response to staying fully remote versus sending students to school between Chinese language responses and English-speaking responses.  
  - One factor may be the large number of intergenerational households and also family members’ roles in caretaking  
  - Families don’t want to cut off connections to older generations. Grandparent visits no longer able to happen. Mental health concerns for the elder generation  
  - Many Chinese people think that others don’t take science seriously enough
Part of the response may be to the choice being only returning one day a week, so parents have to decide whether to break their bubble or their return for one day a week.

WHAT ELSE ARE WE LEARNING ABOUT COVID SPREAD?
- Do we have data about charter schools in Philadelphia that have in person instruction?
- Information seems to be coming out that schools have not been major causes of spreading Covid
- Looking at the metrics, we see them shifting and it’s hard to see how they will stabilize
- Contrasting the PDE criteria and the summer metrics we used.

SENSE OF URGENCY TO GETTING STUDENTS BACK INTO THE BUILDING
- Deeply concerned about K-2 students. Don’t feel good about education through Zoom for the little ones. It is incumbent on us, when it is safe for students and adults to get the little ones in school. There is higher level of success for accessing learning remotely for older students.
- There will not be a clear end to the pandemic. It will be a slower improvement. We need to focus on what’s best for students. We should start the runway as soon as we can
- Concern that Covid set back could impact students for years to come.

WHAT DO WE NEED TO KNOW IN ORDER TO MAKE THE DECISION TO RETURN TO SCHOOL?
- Policy Committee: we need to be considering whether our families would come back, how our staff feel, and whether our school building is ready
- Any decision to open quickly should be impacted by how online learning is going.
- Want to look at more data before greenlighting something. At the same time there is a feeling of urgency
- The more data the better: how online schooling is going. How it’s going for staff. If we could have another month to look at the data.
- Assessment of student learning is hard right now. How to assess whether K-2 students are learning as they should.
  - Specifically interested in how ELD and SPED students are doing
  - There is a huge number of ELD students in K
- Next week we will receive packets back from students so we can better assess how remote learning is going.
- Need more info on how online learning is going. We need to know more about how students are engaging online in order to decide on bringing students back. Can’t decide right now.

FACTS PROPOSED MODEL OF HYBRID LEARNING
- The design we have is that the one day a week focuses on supporting students social and emotional well-being, providing supports for remote learning, helping to set them up for success in online learning.
- The content teaching is housed on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; students will not miss out on the academic content whether they choose in person or 100% remote. What students crave most is the socialization and mental health, we are addressing that need in our hybrid model. For
parents who are opting out, perhaps there are ways to support socializing virtually.

- It’s positive that parents can make choices to go fully remote.
- We need to find ways to keep the school feeling like a community, with many students staying fully remote and others opting to go in to school.
- Even returning, we need to temper our expectations of what in-person school looks like in the pandemic; school will not feel like it did before. (distancing, masks, etc.)
- At what point does it not make sense to convene a class? Is there a threshold below which it doesn’t make sense to convene certain classes/grades?
- Not all parents need to be on board with a plan to bring students back to the building since they can opt for 100% remote.

POSSIBLE SCENARIOS FOR REOPENING

- We should seek to open in January. We should continue to monitor the Covid conditions and safety conditions.
  - Notice to parents: we intend to open in January; will you send your student in person?
  - At November meeting, we could reevaluate the status of the pandemic. We don’t use today’s statistics to move forward with January opening.
- Restarting in January could be the worst time. If families are traveling, then they may be infected during travel and relaxed vigilance during the holidays. Two weeks after the holidays is when cases may be showing up.
  - If families are traveling, we want them to quarantine for fourteen days.
  - We don’t want families to extend their travel since they don’t have to return by January 4 with remote learning.
- Admin estimates that it will take about two months between the time we decide on a reopening date and executing on that reopening (we’re calling this the “on ramp”). Even if we start right now, we believe that mid to late January is the earliest we would be ready to reopen the building due to holiday breaks.
  - On Ramp includes: school’s communication to parents and staff of our intentions; response/commitment forms from staff and parents; based on staff and parent commitment forms we need to regroup students into new cohorts depending on who is opting to stay 100% remote; develop staffing plan; creating schedules for in school and remote learning; training, planning logistics, practicing new Covid safety measures; teacher prep time for new in school model; teacher room set up time
- We want to communicate as soon as possible with parents, but realize that they will be making plans based on these communications which may be shifting. If we tell parents we’re aiming for a January start, then parents and staff are setting up their lives around this idea. If we are thinking it’s a 90% chance it’s one thing, but if we think it’s closer to 50/50 then it could be creating a burden on parents and staff families to have them prepare for something that probably won’t happen.
- We should take into consideration family preferences. That should also be a factor.
When we do bring students back, we probably need to do K-8. We may want to prioritize K-2, but for families to make it work, we may need to bring back K-8.

DECISIONS:

- We will not decide about a schedule for reopening until the November meeting. We will not call a Special Meeting to make a call.
- There will be an adhoc board/admin committee for planning reopening. The committee will synthesize more info, frame up questions
  - If the data in November points to it, try to open in late January.
  - Pull five teachers together to get some qualitative data
- There will be a two-part process: first a go ahead with a planned date for reopening, and then a green light (last decision to move forward)
- Communicate that we will be in full virtual until the end of 2020. The Board will be making further decisions about returning to the building at its November meeting (between now and December) but they will not take effect until 2021.

VII. Committee Reports

- Development Committee
  - Board Pledge Forms

  Please complete and return. Think of your Board Pledge as whatever amount is significant to you. There is not a set amount. You may donate yourself but you may also raise funds from others. Either mail a check or pay online; our mail is getting to us now.

  Virtual fundraiser. Virtual 5K as a possibility.

- Nominations Committee
  - Selina/Heather

  Nominations Committee has identified a prospective new board member. His background and CV will be shared with the Board. He is invited to the November meeting.

X. Other Action Items

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Gen3 for the provision of renovation work in an amount not to exceed $15,000. [Because of the urgency of reconfiguring the Tech Lab into a Nurse’s office and Isolation Room as a condition of opening the school, we did not seek three bids. This project falls below the state’s threshold pertaining to minimum bids for construction bidding. Gen3 has been a trusted contractor who managed the reconfiguration of our first and second floor]

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for conducting an audit of FACTS’s technology platforms in an amount not to exceed $5,000.

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Dunya Performing Arts
Company for the provision of folk arts education programs in an amount not to exceed $4,060.

8. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with AATMA Performing Arts for the provision of folk arts education programs in an amount not to exceed $4,060.

9. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with the New York Chinese Cultural Center, for the provision of folk arts education programs in an amount not to exceed $4,060.

10. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with the International Capoeira Angola Foundation, for the provision of folk arts education programs in an amount not to exceed $4,060.

11. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Henry Jun Wah Lee/Evosia Wellness for the provision of folk arts education programs in an amount not to exceed $11,000. [to be fully funded through the NOVO SEL grant]

   Moved: Heather Davis-Jones
   Seconded: Tim Matheney
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung

12. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Asian Americans United for the provision of remote folk arts education instruction in an amount not to exceed $31,000 (~$29,000 in artists fees and $1500 in Administrative Fees). [AAU Board Members should identify their conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the discussion and vote on this resolution]

   • Neeta Patel, Kenzo Sung, Xu Lin identified a conflict of interest as they are members of the AAU board; they recused themselves from the discussion and the vote.

   Moved: Pooja Agarwal
   Seconded: Alan Phan
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Alan Phan
   Recused: Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Kenzo Sung

XI. **Adjournment**

   Moved: Heather Davis-Jones
   Seconded: Alan Phan
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung
I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Introduction of Prospective Board Member, Thierry Saintine
Introduction of Others Present

III. Honor our Elders Activity Selina Morales
Share about an elder you would like to honor tonight: go around

IV. Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa

Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- Qigong Movement Class started for all students, K-8; it emphasizes wellness practices of breathing and movement
- Career Day: over 20 people are joining to share with Middle Schoolers
- Family Literacy Night had 95 participants, higher than anticipated
- ELD Family Night is next Wednesday
- National Association of Asian American Professionals donated hand sanitizer to FACTS. FACTS will share with local child cares.

[V. Discussion of School Reopening]

The Ad Hoc Committee met. Since that time, conditions in the Philadelphia area have shifted considerably, for the worse.

Information and Perspectives Gathered Pheng Lim

Student Achievement and Attendance Data

Discussion:
- Attendance Data: Number of students who have missed two or more days per month is a more useful piece of data than % attending. This is a good working definition of problematic attendance.
- What kind of intervention is planned for those students who are regressing?
FACTS is offering targeted support through small group instruction. “What I Need” Sessions are happening three days per week. Different approaches including building relationships, social/emotional support, as well as academic supports.

FACTS is also emphasizing accountability. We are basing grades on the data that we have, for example, for students who are not submitting work. This is also teaching a necessary life skill of accountability.

Is there a big difference between conducting the DRAs in person versus remotely? Is there something we need to be adjusting with the next round of testing?

We are still learning. An example is one student being tested who could not be heard. Also distractions when students are in a daycare or Access Center. We are not sure how to address this problem; we are learning as we go. Also, students are getting more used to using online forms.

Teacher Perspectives

Tim Matheney

Board members met with seven K-3 teachers, including general ed as well as ELD, SPED, and interventionists and also got some feedback from an online survey.

Key Themes:

Positives:
- Effectiveness of using small groups. able to connect with students and monitor students more closely
- Even virtually it’s been possible to build community. Morning Meetings have worked fairly well. Students are still excited about seeing their teachers and each other. Many were excited about a red shirt day
- Progress Monitoring: Virtual world has forced us to be more deliberate and this has led to stronger efforts at systematic monitoring of progress

Challenges:
- Teaching writing is hard but teachers are trying different approaches.
- Individual tech issues, also environment challenges. Imagine the challenges of explaining to an English Learner about how to use Zoom remotely.
- Students who were vulnerable before March are more vulnerable today. This is also reinforced through the data, e.g. in one class, none of the 14 on level students are EL or SPED. And teachers are mindful of that.
- The schedule. The schedule when you’re all virtual and trying to stay ambitious is challenging. Pheng told the group that she is thinking of possibilities of tweaking the schedule.

Summary:
- What Tim has heard from FACTS is consistent to what he’s hearing from others.
- Impressed by teachers. The conversation could have gone negative, but it was a positive conversation. Staff did not
hold back on challenges but were solutions-oriented. We have a lot of work to do; we will be in virtual learning for the foreseeable future.

- Teachers were concerned about the consistency of the schedule (different schedules on different days of the week).
- Social skills concerns: students online have been exhibiting less control and less maturity. There will likely be a need to rebuild social skills when we return to the school building.
  - That is developmentally appropriate given the stress students are under.
- Encouraging to hear of the supports that students have gotten from their caregivers.
- Impressive participation in Family Literacy Night.

Parent Perspectives

- Every day it gets better. Fourth grader is excited about writing and published her first piece. First grader is maturing, every day is getting better. It feels like school. Pleased with what my children are getting in virtual learning
- First grader has a positive attitude. At the beginning it was rocky. Parent was more stressed than the student. The student is more comfortable now and is able to navigate to classes. Making progress in reading and writing. Four days a week at a daycare. Has connected with their teacher and is excited to see her.
- Don’t know much about what is going on with the fourth grader. She has made a lot of Flipgrid stories. Loves writing and is producing a lot of little books. First grader is loving reading and is reading a lot. He is sneaking in reading when he is not supposed to be reading. Enjoying school more than expected. The long days seem too long.
- My kids are happy at school. Had an issue with my child watching Youtube during class. Parts of their personalities are coming out. I can see them growing. For both students, emotions are big; when something small goes wrong, it brings on tears.

City and County Data

Ellen Somekawa

Discussion: Perspectives on Returning to the Building

- Knowing what we know now, if the building were ready, we might have opened in September and would be shutting down now. We should be preparing now to bring students in during whatever windows are possible for bringing students back. If things improve dramatically in the spring, we should be prepared to go back using our hybrid model. We should not give up on the idea of going to the building.
- It was hard at the beginning of the year, but now things are getting into a rhythm. If I were told now I had to go back to work, it would be challenging. It is a transition for staff and students and families to get into a new routine. If the spread of Covid remains severe and we aren’t talking about returning to the school until the spring, we should look at if it’s worth the disruption to return to the building if we only have x weeks left.
We heard from some of the teachers that they want to shift the schedule around. Wanting longer class periods, with content. The centerpiece of the current schedule is to create space to be present with each other; it was not created to maximize 100% remote learning. We may be spending the year holding space for the ideal of being in person in exchange for being able to deliver a more excellent online curriculum. If we are going to be online for the remainder of the year, what is the best way to do this for teachers and students?

- We have to think of both scenarios; either bringing back students for in person learning but also figure out how to build robust online learning. My bias is that students learn best face to face with their teachers. Want to hold this as what we strive for, especially in the youngest grades.
- I come at this personally: five colleagues have contracted covid, one is on life support. This is a real threat. In-person learning is best for children, but we need to balance safety and academics.
- Has the school looked at the ventilation system?
  - If we don’t know if masks on inside would provide protection if there isn’t enough air flow.
  - Only a third of the SDP schools have adequate airflow.
  - What does define a safe space for people to be in?
- Would the Board consider returning to school while Philadelphia County is at a substantial level of community spread (using the PDE and DOH measure)?

Communication:
- The world may change a lot in the next several months. We have to watch the data carefully. It is important to bring students back. We need to communicate to parents, to plan for virtual learning until at least January 19 or whichever date we decide on.
- We want to aim for clear concise communication with as much advance notice as possible. It will create stress if going back and forth between announcements that we’re opening/not opening.
- Communication is also important with students. We should have open communication with students.

Agreement and Next Steps
1. Admin will continue to work quickly and diligently to prepare for reopening the building.
2. Communicate the following to staff and parents:

“The City of Philadelphia has now moved into the category of ‘substantial level of community transmission of Covid-19’ for the third straight week.

The FACTS Board of Trustees has decided that FACTS will remain 100% remote until at least February 16, 2021. We urge FACTS community members to be cautious in their holiday travels and holiday gatherings.

FACTS will send more information about a future opening date in early January. We will review a variety of metrics provided by City and state education and health authorities and will also consider school readiness before making a decision on reopening. Please remember that, as a
charter school, FACTS makes its own decisions and is not governed by decisions of the School District of Philadelphia.

When we do return to the school for in-person teaching and learning, we will be using the FACTS hybrid plan, with students learning remotely 4 days per week and coming into school one day per week (either a Wednesday or a Thursday). All families will have the option to remain 100% online.

VI. 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 October 21, 2020.

   Moved: Neeta Patel
   Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan
   Abstain: Allaire Wohlgemuth

VII. Finance Report

Finance Committee Report Neeta Patel

FACTS is in good shape as far as cash flow, expenditures, and revenues. The Audit Committee will be meeting next month.

Approval of the October Financial Statements David Brown

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the October 31, 2020 Financial Statements

   Moved: Pooja Agarwal
   Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VIII. Committee Reports

- Development Committee Alan/Allaire

Revisiting end of year fundraising. Meeting the first Thursday of the month at 4 pm.
Reminder to turn in your pledge form. Email your commitment to Ellen.

- Nominations Committee Selina/Heather

The Nominations Committee recommends that the Board appoint Thierry Saintine to the Board of Trustees. Thierry’s Curricula Vitae has been circulated to the board.
3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves appointing Thierry Saintine to the Board of Trustees.

   Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth  
   Seconded: Heather Davis-Jones  
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

IX. **Other Action Items**

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of IT and networking support services in an amount not to exceed $21,000.

   Moved: Neeta Patel  
   Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth  
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth

X. **Adjournment**

   Moved: Heather Davis-Jones  
   Seconded: Neeta Patel  
   Voted to Adjourn: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Allaire Wohlgemuth
MINUTES

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

Board Members Absent: Tim Matheney

Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

Public Present: Edwin Mayorga

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Swearing in of Board Member, Thierry Saintine Selina Morales

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) 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. Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa

Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- Chronic Absenteeism: We have had 87 students who have been absent. Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing three or more days without an excuse. Attendance team has been working with families to see what supports can help increase attendance. Seven students are on our list of chronic absences. We are hovering at around a 97% attendance rate.
- A Holocaust survivor visited sixth grade social studies classes.
- Celebration of Peace is 12/17 at 2:15. It will include the dismantling of the sand mandala this year.
- Continuing with the bookfair. It helps generate funds for the purchase of books for classroom libraries.
- Principal is attending a National Institute of School Leaders training. A lot of the practices we are doing at FACTS are being discussed as model practices such as teacher portfolios with inquiry learning.
- Innovageous is consulting on tech needs of teachers and working with teachers most in need of support.
- Parent Teacher conferences are next week. Coming out of the virtual environment, there are some positives such as remote conferences that make it easier for many parents to participate. We may continue some of these practices.
- Response to Intervention is making good progress. The virtual environment is pushing FACTS to strengthen our data culture. We are forming a data team.
- Special Education team: we are working on staff being conscious of using inclusive of language regarding special education and disabilities.
- Math team is using formative assessments more and better in the virtual context.
• Intent to Return forms are coming back. Two teachers are considering retiring, one teacher wants to reduce hours and responsibilities, one teacher is not returning.
• A letter went out to families to inform them of the choices of books for Read Alouds for grades K-3 (e.g. LGBT, anti-bullying, anti-racism, etc).

Discussion:
• Is it fair to count attendance in the same way? If a student is completing work but not present for Morning Meeting?

[Edwin Mayorga exited]

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 November 18, 2020.

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

V. Finance Report

David Brown

The financial statements from November 2020 will be reviewed and approved at the January meeting. Our Finance Director had surgery and was unable to complete the statements in time for review. There are no concerns to report for the month of November.

We just transferred another $100,000 to our reserve account which is now at $2 million.

VI. Audit Committee

Report of the Audit Committee

Neeta Patel

The Board’s role in reviewing the audit/ what to look for

Discussion and Questions

The Audit Committee (Neeta and Tim) read the whole audit and met with the auditor. The committee’s recommendation is to accept the audit. Note that the large liability for PSERS is part of general accounting standards and not a reason to be alarmed. There is no management letter which is a testament to the Finance Director’s work. The unaudited financial statements that we approved in June were largely, with a few small adjustments, the same as the audit. No issues were raised in terms of financial controls. The materials circulated on the board’s role in the audit were helpful. There are essentially three audits in one (school, LEA, single audit of federal funds).

Discussion:
• How is our relationship with the auditor going?
○ The same firm has been doing our audit for many years, but there are different members of the team who take the lead. The auditor was helpful in answering questions and thorough in going through the notes and talking through the audit.
○ FACTS has had a long relationship with Joyce Miller & Associates. We switched away from her firm one year and then came back because it was not a good experience. Most CPA firms do not have deep experience with charter school finances.
○ It is good that within the firm, the team switches. The team was very proficient.
○ David interviewed a second auditor and found that they had all worked with Joyce Miller and learned what they know from that experience.

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School accepts the Audited Financial Statements for the year ending June 30, 2020.

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

VII. Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy

Presentation  
Ellen Somekawa

Discussion

Proposed Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy:
From January 1, 2021 until March 31, 2021 or until the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) or its equivalent is reinstated, FACTS will offer staff an Emergency Paid Sick Leave bank of 10 emergency paid sick leave days to be administered as an extension of the expired federal program. This bank of emergency paid sick leave will be available for staff who are subject to leave for the following reasons:

● Being subject to a federal, state, or local quarantine or isolation order related to COVID–19 and there is no remote work available;
● Being advised by a health care provider to self-quarantine due to concerns related to COVID–19 and there is no remote work available;
● Experiencing symptoms of COVID–19 and seeking a medical diagnosis;
● Experiencing possible symptoms of COVID–19 per the school’s self-screener policy and therefore being directed to stay home;
● Caring for an individual who has been ordered or advised to quarantine by a government agency or health care provider; or
● Caring for a child whose school or place of care is closed, or whose child care provider is unavailable, due to COVID-19 precautions.

If FACTS directs an employee to quarantine or self-isolate at home due to an exposure or possible exposure to Covid-19 at the school, the employee will continue to be paid and will not be asked to use sick leave or personal or
vacation days for that period of time. Employees will be expected to work from home to the extent possible. This policy applies to part time staff as well as to full time staff. Compensation to part time staff will be based on their regular hours of work.

This Emergency Sick leave bank will be used before an employee’s regular paid sick leave. Unused Emergency sick leave will not be rolled over to the next school year. It does not accumulate. For part time employees, Emergency Paid Sick Leave days will be prorated based on the number of hours worked during their regular schedule. Staff who have already used paid sick leave from the FFCRA would not be eligible for leave under this policy that exceeds a total 10 days of Emergency Paid Sick leave (or the part time equivalent).

Employees experiencing longer periods of illness have access to FACTS’s Short Term Disability Insurance which can take effect after 8 days of sick leave. Employees who contract Covid-19 while at FACTS are eligible for Workers Compensation coverage.

Discussion:

- What has the usage of emergency paid sick leave been to date?
  - Seven employees have been asked to self isolate from three different exposure events.
- Do we have a plan for substitutes?
  - The sub services we have been using have not made themselves available. We have some in house subs.
  - We have been moving staff around to cover for staff who are absent.
- For a future discussion, how would the availability of a vaccine or the ability of teachers to access vaccination change our thoughts on reopening to students?
  - People are hearing different things about the availability and there are many policies and other complicated issues involved; we will have much more information on this in a month or two. More conversation can happen then.
  - Even if every teacher is vaccinated, we still need to have the conversation with parents and students.
  - Children under 16 cannot get vaccinated.
  - As vaccinations proceed, presumably community spread will be reduced. A lot of the concern has been about risk to adults.
- Right now, we are using the assumption that as long as Philadelphia is at a substantial level of transmission, we will not be bringing students back to the school.
- It’s good that this is a limited term policy so that we will revisit this in March. So many things are shifting and it will be good to evaluate again in March.
- The financial liability would be limited during this trial period of the policy.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy.

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

[Pooja Agarwal exited the meeting]

VIII. Pre-Development Letter of Intent

Presentation Ellen Somekawa
Discussion

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School authorizes the Executive Director to sign a Letter of Intent with Creative Development Partners to explore the feasibility of developing a new facility to accommodate FACTS’s expansion.

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

IX. Committee Reports

- Development Committee Alan/Allaire

The Development Committee had a productive meeting. Alan is interested in creating a competition between different companies about who can raise more funds for FACTS. The committee is working on the idea of making a donation feel warmer and more concrete without having people buy physical things (such as the teacher wish list). The committee is working on the donations page on the website: for $300 your donation will buy x. Want people to feel they are donating to something that feels more human. We need to grow the Development Committee. FACTS is asking some parents to join who may be willing to engage their networks.

X. Other Action Items

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Nearpod for the provision of a subscription to an online interactive teaching resource in an amount not to exceed $4,000.

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

XI. Adjournment

Moved to Adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Xu Lin
Voted Yes: Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Xu Lin, Allaire Wohlgemuth
I. Call to Order

Selina Morales

II. Executive Director’s Report

Ellen Somekawa

Principal’s Report

Pheng Lim

- Sharing a video excerpt from the Celebration of Peace
- Training for Principals: Pheng shared that FACTS strengthens and maintains community through music. For example the FACTS play list of songs that inspire our staff and sharing that music at staff meetings. FACTS is attempting to find connections to students and between staff members
- DRAs, our reading diagnostic: We are in the second round of testing and will be finished with testing all of the students next week. We are seeing that students are learning, but we are trying to understand the pace of learning and don’t have a comparison to past years.
- We are analyzing report cards and looking at who is meeting grade level standards.
- Deadline for applying to FACTS is February 5: Our Intent to Enroll numbers are lower than usual. We now have 207 applications.
- Lunar New Year Celebration is February 11
- High School Admissions: 51 of 57 8th graders were admitted to one of their choice schools. 20 were accepted to Carver, which is high for us. We are now working to find placements for the remaining students. Charter School applications are happening now. It is a stressful situation for 8th graders.
- WIDA ACCESS Testing: a mandatory standardized test for English Learners. This year families are allowed to opt out. FACTS sent letters to families explaining what the test is, what other methods of assessment we use, and asking if parents want their students to participate.

Discussion:

- Is attendance holding steady?
  - Yes, attendance is still holding steady at around 96% or 97%. We are looking for ways to support students and families struggling with attendance. We still have a small number of students who are chronically absent and are trying to work with their families.

III. Stars Program
Report on the Status of the Stars Program

Ellen Somekawa

Formation of a Committee to Steward the Program

Discussion:

- Does our charter require that we maintain the program or maintain a certain size of enrollment? [no]
- The process of intake and screening English Learners at the School District changed right as we started our program, so this source of referrals did not come through for us.
- Social workers could be a source of recruitment and referrals
- Are there any current lottery applications that would qualify for the program? [no]
- If we need to put the program on pause, we want to make it clear how much we value the program
- We want to express appreciation to Teacher Lucinda for the incredible work in setting up the program and to say that you have the support of the Board; it is important to our mission
- Emphasize that this is a temporary pause.

Proposal: Establish a board and staff committee to steward the Stars Program. The committee will explore: What we learned from the Stars program, how we use that knowledge as a jumping off point for when we are able to restart the program, how we can create conditions for re-starting the program and recognize when conditions are ripe. The committee will plan to meet once before the end of the school year, and do some evaluation while the program is still operating so we can gather data and information.

- Volunteering for this committee: Lucinda, Thierry, Heather, Neeta, Pheng, Kenzo, Xu, Ellen
- It can be possible for Swarthmore to offer research support (Edwin Mayorga)

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 December 16, 2020.

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

V. Finance Report

   Finance Committee Report

   Neeta Patel

   FACTS is in good shape. Flagging some issues: Our income projections are down due to a reduction in enrollment (partly due to lower Stars enrollment and also due to some vacancies not filled in the upper grades). We will be slightly under enrolled in future years. We are expected to receive additional funding from federal COVID Relief that can help see us through potential budget shortfalls. We know that lean times are coming, but have good sized reserves. Admin is working on the budget for next year. The financials for November are
included in the December Financial Statements so we did not present them separately. We will need to approve our Form 990 in the next two months.

Discussion:
- Why did the number of Special Education students go up?
  - We tested the kindergarten students. Our goal is to get the testing done by December, but because of remote learning, we couldn’t get the evaluations done in time. Every year, our SPED numbers change as our eighth graders exit and we get a new group of kindergartners. Evaluations were delayed this year due to the pandemic.

Report on the Financial Statements

David Brown

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Financial Statements for the period ending December 31, 2020.
   Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Seconded: Alan Phan
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

VI. Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy

Presentation
Ellen Somekawa

Discussion
- Should the policy be extended past March 31, given that we might reopen to in person learning and teachers might need leave more. We would want staff to know that the Board would consider extending the policy.
  - We need to plan to revisit this again prior to March 31 so we do not need to amend the policy at this point. Federal policy and conditions are continually changing.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revised Emergency Paid Sick Leave Policy.

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

VII. School Reopening Discussion

Presentation:
Ellen Somekawa

- Report on School Preparedness
- New Guidance from the PA Department of Education
- COVID-19 Conditions and Vaccine Timeline

Policy Committee Report
Pooja Agarwal
Proposal from Admin is to set a date of April 14 for reopening in our hybrid model which is far enough into the future that Admin can begin making concrete plans for the reopening starting now and the pandemic conditions may have shifted by then.

Discussion

Responses to the Proposed Opening Date of April 14:

- Don’t object to the date. It seems a little soon given that we don’t know what will happen with the vaccine.
- Is the building ready? Want to know more about air circulation and ventilation. This is an important factor in spread.
- Nervous about the thought of reopening. If given the option of returning to my own work in a school, I would choose not to. It makes me anxious.
- Thinking about coming back right after spring break. Might people travel and might we see a spike? We could inform parents that if they travel, they should quarantine for ten days.
  - April 14 is ten days after Spring Break
- We need to take the time to create a concrete plan that is predictable. It’s hard when you’re in a stressful situation to ask people to change. Don’t want people to feel that they are being bounced around. Going back into the building and resetting will be a huge change and challenge for students, staff, families. We’re asking people to learn how to do something in a new way. There is a lot of conflicting information about learning loss and about what is safe. We won’t know the lasting effects of this for decades.
- Every time we talk about this, we talk about the same things. We are not in better shape in terms of what is known. We aren’t going to have the answers to these questions maybe for years. We are going to have to take some risks. We have this date in mind; I suggest that if all the adults in the building have had the opportunity to have the vaccine by this date, then we will open. The vaccine is more of the game changer in terms of having teachers back in the building. The vaccine’s timing is an uncertainty. If that is not the case, we may delay. And also a change in community spread would be expected. If that is not the case, then we are in another set of problems.

Clarifications About the Hybrid Model

- Our plan is for K-8 to return to the building?
  - Yes.
- Clarification on our hybrid model. Our model is for the in person days on Weds and Thursday being focused on Social and Emotional Learning and well being, community building, exploration; MTF focus on academic content taught remotely. Want to talk about what learning means. Invite us to discuss if there are things being gained that we do not measure.
- Teachers and I believe that there can’t be different teachers teaching in person and remote at the same time. That would sacrifice the quality of instruction. Principal does not want to move to that model.
  - Agreed
  - Agreed
• Checking to make sure that if and when we return in a hybrid, families have the option to continue 100% remote.
  ○ Yes
• If half of students do not want to return, do we have the ability to keep teachers fully remote or do we have all teachers come back? Is it all hands on deck?
  ○ We will need responses from parents in order to plan.

School and Building Preparedness
• I’m looking at new guidance on the new strains of COVID-19 going around and now the guidance is to wear two masks. Given that families and children will lose masks or not come with masks’
  ○ We have 500 children’s masks and will buy more if we run out or are close to running out.
• Have we thought through what do we do if we get a positive case? Do we inform parents of any positive cases?
  ○ This information is contained in the Return to School Guide for Parents. The link to the guide is being sent to the Board.

Urgency of Return to the Building: Learning Loss
• I would approach this with a lot of gravity. We would be looking at students learning virtually for another 30% of the year. Extending virtual learning for that much more of the year is sobering.
• Shared a link to a Mckinsey report that shows COVID learning loss. Even if students are learning, but they are not learning at the same rate as usual, we need to get students back in person. We know that poverty-impacted students lose many months of learning in virtual settings, so that weighs heavily on me. We should get back to in-person learning as soon as conditions permit. We are not there yet. But when the level of community spread reaches a particular level, schools should consider opening. I am fearful that we will experience more learning loss if we continue fully remote for 30% more of the year. April 14 seems pretty far off. We have many examples of schools being open with minimal cases. The timeline of ten days after spring break seems too long. If we postpone until mid-April, we should consider more than one day per week, especially for younger students. I am uncomfortable with the proposal.

There is More Than One Way to Think About Learning Loss:
• We need a discussion of what counts as learning when we talk about learning loss. Want to think more broadly about what students are learning or losing.
• Don’t know that it’s helpful to weigh learning loss versus health risks. Not as useful to compare what is happening now to what was in the past. Can’t define learning or attendance as in the past. Whatever amount of learning we choose to measure this year is not a forecast to what happens to students in the future.
How do we think about learning loss? How do we engage in this conversation within the ethic of care prioritizing certain definitions of learning, maybe deemphasize standardization in learning loss.

From Kenzo:

Changes in COVID Conditions and Knowledge:
- The science is still evolving with the new variant and transmissibility. What would the decision rules be for when we would open and when we would close again. What information we are able to provide to parents.
- In the US it is taken as an accepted fact that schools aren’t the cause of community spread whereas in other countries this is not taken as a proven fact and that perhaps schools are a cause of community spread. From Kenzo: Evidence from Canada that schools contribute to the spread: https://montrealgazette.com/news/local-news/emsb-unveils-air-purifiers-maintaining-they-will-slow-spread-of-covid-19
- Also vaccines also do not necessarily protect against getting the disease, but reduce the severity of the disease. People still may get the disease and being able to pass on
- Agree that we have to make decisions about both health concerns and learning concerns. My concern is about making decisions about 30% of the school year. There are many variables involving the vaccine schedule and the rate of covid spread. Uncomfortable making the decision now about a long period of time before a return to school. Think we would have more information in a couple of weeks.
- The information we have will be changing, whether we make a decision now or in a few weeks. It is a certainty that the information will be changing. We can’t wait for certainty in order to make a decision. Want us to decide and not remain without making a decision until June.
- From Tim: Another interesting article: https://www.usnews.com/news/education-news/articles/2020-12-23/new-study-cautiously-suggests-schools-dont-increase-spread-of-coronavirus (The proviso is that Philly, despite signs of good trends, still has high community spread.)

Desire for More Input
- If at all possible, have a meeting to figure out what teachers and parents want to do. Share the proposal and have a vote to reopen rather than us deciding for them. Teachers should have a voice.
- Important points but feel pressed to figure out what decisions to make tonight. We told parents that the earliest we would plan to open is February 16. Whatever we decide, we need to be clear with them. Can we decide what our communication is to parents?
- When was the last time staff were asked of their comfort level? Parents have the option to choose. It is the staff who don’t have the option.
- Part of my job is to send plants to families who have members who have died, and I’m sending so many plants. We do need to say something to families and staff.
- Originally I said I wouldn’t send my kids back. I know I’m able more than most to support my kids with learning loss. My kids are begging to go
back. I know the decision is so hard. Thank you for listening so hard to each other. I don’t know if my answer would be the same the next time.

- Could we survey staff?
  - What would a survey say? Almost anyone would want to stay home if given a chance.
  - One of the conversations would be about the vaccine. Once you are vaccinated, would you be willing to come back? There will be a range of responses.
  - If teachers aren’t willing to come back after being vaccinated at what point will they be willing to come back?
  - I don’t want to do a survey if it isn’t going to be real. We need to know what we will do with the information if we ask a question.
  - Some teachers are willing to work extra days in person.
  - Surveys are empowering

Setting Contingencies along with Date to Return
- In terms of timeline, there are contingencies with setting a set date, there still must be some contingencies. Part of the decision could be based on staff having the opportunity to be vaccinated, but this is a moving target and the roll out is going badly so far.
- We should establish a date for reopening along with criteria for reopening, and make a final determination if this criteria has been met by the March 17 board meeting. Between now and then we come up with criteria of what would need to be true if we are to reopen.
- The Ad Hoc Committee on School Reopening to discuss next steps.

VIII. MOU Pennrose

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School authorizes the Executive Director to include FACTS as a signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding and/or Community Benefits Agreement with Pennrose Properties, LLC in order to gain assurances of benefits to the Chinatown community of a planned affordable senior housing project on the parcel at 800 Vine Street.

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

IX. Website Bios

Selina Morales

We are working on a website update. We want to include bios of school leadership and would like board members to contribute a short bio to better communicate with the public about our school.

Staff will set up board.factschool.org email addresses

X. Committee Reports

- Development Committee
The Committee is working on expanding the development committee to include more people including parents. Updating roles and responsibilities as well as developing outreach materials for it. The committee is working on changing the webpage for donations. Do a program like Friends of FACTS fundraiser in May by working through our networks. Considering doing the 5K as a virtual event.

XI. Adjournment

Moved to Adjourn: Pooja Agarwal
Seconded: Alan Phan
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
MINUTES

Present: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Staff Present: Pratima Agrawal, Jill Benowitz, David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ricque Porter, Ellen Somekawa
Public Present:

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales
   • Sharing an appreciation of Principal Pheng sent by a FACTS teacher

II. Appreciation of Tim Matheney All

III. Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa
Discussion:
   • PSSAs:
     ○ Can FACTS opt out of PSSAs or ask for our own waiver?
     ○ Can schools opt for portfolio assessment instead of PSSAs?

Principal’s Report Pheng Lim
   • Review of FACTS: K message
   • Data Presentation [slideshow]

Discussion:
   • Critical question is how the report card data compares to previous years, if we want to understand the impact of remote learning.
   • What accounts for the cohorts who are more behind?
   • How are these skills such as “Listening” assessed in a virtual environment; could that have skewed the data? [We removed Listening from the third marking period]
   • Noticed in K-4 data is the significant gap between who is meeting grade level standards in literacy and math. Much higher percentages of students on grade level in math than literacy. Was that also true pre-COVID?
     ○ Math in lower grades where the skills are more computational are doing better in a remote environment. In the upper grades, students report having a harder time learning math in the remote environment.
   • Thank you for the thoughtfulness and for taking the time to ask the students how they are doing and feeling and for following through with students who report having a hard time.
Many students reported liking the Small Learning Community and Explore Classes and we are looking at how we can continue those practices when we return to in-person learning.

- Can school leadership reflect on the significant decline in the percentage of students on grade level (as determined by DRAs)?
  - We are putting more resources into a cohort that is not showing growth this year. More teacher coaching, more small group intervention.
  - We put more resources into phonics instruction by changing to a new program, but this was interrupted by school closure and we did not have even a full year of implementing the program.
  - We departmentalize starting in the early grades; this year we experimented with one teacher focusing only on literacy and the other homeroom teacher teaching math as well as social studies and science.
  - FACTS is investing more time in early literacy.
- The overall DRA data showed something like 79% of students making progress. That means that 1 in 5 students are not making progress. There is much to celebrate, but that is a sobering number.
  - Appreciation to the Literacy Coordinator for pushing forward with the DRAs in the remote environment because it allows us to track student progress.
  - We need to explore what our annual summer learning loss is year to year.
- Is it possible that students who are reading above grade level are not showing up as making progress?

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 January 20, 2021.

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

V. **Finance Report**

Finance Committee Report

Not many changes to our financial status. We still have a healthy cash reserve. We will need those resources to navigate expected lean times as well as extra expenditures caused by the pandemic.

Report on the Financial Statements

Our SDP per pupil funding is still down but our expenditures are also down. The projected surplus that we budgeted is expected to remain intact.
Discussion:
- With the COVID relief grant, how does that impact the balance sheet?
  - We are still working on our ESSER II grant. We will have an update perhaps at the next Board meeting.
- Are there more COVID related expenses built into our budget, especially anticipating the supplies needed with a return to the building.
  - Yes. There is a new Health and Safety Supplies budget line, with new expenses and many of these will be covered by the ESSER I grant.
  - The decision on masks was to ask families to provide masks but that the school will have masks on hand for students without masks.

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

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

VI. Approval of the 990
The Board’s Role in Reviewing the Form 990

Discussion and Questions
- Appreciation to the Finance Director for providing the 990 Checklist
- The numbers in the 990 were drawn from the audit which has already been accepted by the Board.
- The Board is responsible for accurately representing the board membership; compensation of employees in decision making capacity; policies, making sure that a majority of our funding is being spent on programs and not management; etc.
- Finance Director reviews the 990 closely for accuracy.
- Treasurer and Finance Committee look at the 990 especially with a keen eye on the narrative which is the public document that tells the story of our mission and vision as well as our financial health.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the submission of the Form 990 for the year ending June 30, 2020.

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

VII. School Reopening Discussion
School Data that may inform the reopening decision

Pheng Lim
Draft Sample Schedule for In-Person Days

Ellen Somekawa

Other Considerations

Ellen Somekawa

Discussion:

- What would experience of students whose families are electing to remain 100% remotely?
  - There schedule would remain much the same as it is currently, but they would likely be taught by different teachers.
- Does this call on teachers to be simultaneously teaching both in person and remotely?
  - No
- Do you have an idea of what percentage of families will elect the hybrid in-person?
  - No; but approximately half said they would elect 100% remote in a survey in the fall.
- Do people have a chance to change their mind if they find themselves uncomfortable with their choice?
  - A parent may always elect to move their child from in-person to 100% remote, but it is not so easy to move a student from all remote to in-person.
  - We do not have that many remaining weeks of school, so we don’t want parents changing back and forth between in person and remote. We are asking parents to commit to a decision.

Presentation on New CDC Guidelines:

- We feel bolstered that the new CDC guidelines align with the approach we have taken with reopening. They have presented five criteria for a safe reopening; four are totally do-able for us, and the fifth involves support from the City Health Department, but FACTS as a small community can do contact tracing.
- We have been talking about a threshold of community spread since last July. We have been using a metric averaged over seven days. The CDC guidelines use a total over seven days. Therefore our metric of 10 daily new cases or fewer per 100,000 (based on a seven day average) maps onto the CDC metric as 70 new cases total over a seven day period. Today Philadelphia is 161 cases per 100,000 which puts us in the red category. Our original proposed resolution was at 70 new cases per 100,000.

Discussion:

- Is there a reason we’re not going to 99 which is the CDC guideline (orange zone)? Should we change ours to 50-99? The new CDC guideline suggests that even in red, elementary but not middle schools could be open in a hybrid model. I suggest the metric be 99 or fewer.
- The other piece that our school is missing is expanded testing. If rapid testing is not available and if we are not randomly testing students, suggest reopening is still open in the orange zone.
- There could be an amendment to change the metric for community spread to 99.
- Amendment: changing from OR to AND because community spread should always be a consideration about reopening regardless of other mitigation strategies.
Oppose this because what we are doing is so limited for this year. Disappointed that we are only going to have students go back one day a week. There are delays in the vaccinations. If community spread is low, then we would be taking off the option of reopening for the rest of the year if not every single teacher gets both doses of vaccine.

If we use the OR, we could have a situation where we open in red and many teachers are not vaccinated but have had the opportunity to be vaccinated.

Amendment: want to have clarity about conditions for the need to close.

If adults in the building are all vaccinated, then does the rate of community spread going up a little bit warrant shutting down the whole school?

The experience of schools that are open is that they close based on cases or clusters in the school itself and not on community spread. Once we are open, we would recommend to not close based on fluctuations in community spread.

Concern about the chaos involved in moving back and forth between in person and 100% remote.

Amendment: want to have clarity about when and how conditions are met.

We’re talking about what is our acceptable risk. How many student deaths are we okay with? What are we okay with?

If we’re talking about the conditions under which we close, then are we being preventative or reactive? If we use community spread, then we’re being preventative. As we see the numbers go up then we close down as opposed to waiting until people are already sick. Everyone will have to vote with their conscience.

It makes sense to put forward a board resolution about reopening, but would advise not to put forward a board resolution about moving back to fully remote and instead rely on decision makers at that time.

I am conducting a research study talking to Asst Superintendents and Superintendents and charter leaders across the country and am struck by how many have figured this out. Their students are in school, learning content and people are not getting sick. Kids, especially in the early grades, learn better in person. Many many schools including in Philadelphia are open and kids are in school multiple days a week. One school leader reported that 83% of their students are in hybrid learning. Philosophically I cannot support the idea of even one day a week in person. Others are doing more than we are proposing to do. It’s a matter of conscience and I can’t support this direction. Other outcomes could have occurred.

I am committed to getting students into the building as many days as we can but recognize that the direction has been the one day a week hybrid. It is inflammatory to be talking about how many dead students are acceptable. That is not what is happening across the country. School opening has been shown to be pretty safe with precautions put in place. But we need to look at what are the risks of not being in school. My child is doing fine academically, but she hates school and is upset a lot. People have not been in a bubble the whole year, but the one risk we are not willing to take is one so important to children. Other schools have been open hybrid or even five days a week. I am frankly looking at other school
options because I can’t do this another year. COVID is going to happen to some of our families regardless of whether we open in person or not.

- There are strongly held different opinions even in large cities like NYC, and often these break down along lines of class and race. There is also an undercurrent about blaming the teachers for student mental health issues, without looking at all of the factors contributing to community mental health concerns.
- If we choose the AND, and not everybody has had the chance to be vaccinated are we saying we wouldn’t be willing to push the reopening date back one week?
  - At a certain point it isn’t worth the heavy lift, if it will be so few days of students being in school.
- Intention of the resolution was to give Admin the information they need to act. To get our doors open in the fall takes a whole summer of preparation. To open our doors at any time takes a great deal of work. The effort is to channel, not to curtail discussion.

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:

- Community Spread: If 70 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (total over 7 days)
- Or teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

**Proposed Amendment:** change from 70 new cases to 99 new cases:
Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total)

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

Resolution as amended:
**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:
- Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total)
- OR teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

**Proposed Amendment:** change OR to AND on the two conditions

Moved: Neeta Patel
Seconded: Kenzo Sung
Voted Yes: Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Voted No: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney

Resolution as amended:
BE IT RESOLVED that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:
  ○ Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total)
  ○ AND teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

Proposed Amendment: clarify date by which board will decide if conditions either will be met or not. Additions in bold:

AND verify with teachers by no later than 3/10/2021 (five weeks prior to 4/14/2021) that any teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021. Confirmation that this condition was met will happen during the March 17 board meeting.

Moved: Kenzo Sung
Seconded: Neeta Patel
Voted Yes: Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Voted No: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine

Proposed Amendment: clarify conditions by which school will both reopen and/or close. Additions in bold:

Community Spread: If 10 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day average)* by March 17 board meeting. School will return to fully remote learning if 7 day average in community spread rises above the listed opening condition.

Moved: Alan Phan
Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth
Voted No: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine
Abstained: Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Resolution as Amended:
4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:
   ● Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total).
   ● AND teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

Moved: Thierry Saintine
Seconded: Neeta Patel
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine
Voted No: Selina Morales
Abstain: Allaire Wohlgemuth, Kenzo
VIII. **Approval of the 2021-22 School Calendar**

Presentation

Discussion

**Ellen Somekawa**

5. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the 2021-22 School Year Calendar.

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

IX. **Policy Committee**

**Student Admissions Policy Revision**

Presentation

Discussion

**Pooja Agarwal**

6. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision of the Student Admissions Policy.

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

**Employee Work From Home Guidelines and Agreement**

Presentation

Discussion

**Pooja Agarwal**

Discussion:

- Do we have a preference about where people are working remotely? Can people be working from California?
- We need to think through how to handle days when individuals lose internet connection. Admin will discuss this.

7. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Employee Work From Home Guidelines and Agreement.

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

X. **Committee Reports**

- Development Committee

**Alan Phan**
The Committee is working to recruit additional members and is working at updating the job description of the Development Committee and of members. Decided to wait to plan the Friends of FACTS activity and hope to run it in May.

XI. Other Action Items

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Creative Development Partners for the provision of pre-development services in an amount not to exceed $20,000.

9. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of 70 staff computers (laptops, memory upgrades, and labor) in an amount not to exceed $60,000.

10. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of service to set up staff computers in an amount not to exceed $15,000.

11. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of technology infrastructure (servers, back up systems, racks, etc) in an amount not to exceed $16,000.

12. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the provision of service to set up new servers and backups and integrate them into existing technology infrastructure in an amount not to exceed $14,000.

Moved 9-13: Neeta
Seconded: Kenzo
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

13. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with the following employees for the 2021-22 school year.

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

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**XII. Adjournment**

Moved: Heather Davis-Jones  
Seconded: Alan Phan  
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Tim Matheney, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Sharing from Founders Day Selina Morales

III. Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa

Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- Sharing from the Investigative Journalism Unit in 8th Grade Social Studies: usually students do an observation of recess. This year focused on observations of themselves and each other during pandemic. Kristin Graham from the Philadelphia Inquirer and Avi Wolfman-Arent of WHYY came to the publishing party. The student writings are important artifacts to be saved.
- Sharing from Founders Day: The last in-person assembly was Founders Day a year ago. Pheng will share the clip through email.
- Sharing the Intentionality Statement from Black Heritage Day which is shared with staff and students so we all gain an understanding of the purpose of the ritual event. There is a K-8 spiraling curriculum for BHD. It is not just a one day celebration. We need to integrate this content throughout the curriculum; we continue to review and revise this.
- Sharing a poem from the Fourth Grade Civil Rights Unit
- Kelly Starling Lyons wrote Sing a Song: Lift Every Voice and Sing. She will be a guest author on 3/25 and will also be donating a copy of the book to all of our second and third graders.
- T. Griffin shares her gratitude for the support. We are especially touched by the donations of our former FACTS students.

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 February 17, 2021.

   Moved: Thierry Saintine
V. **Finance Report**  
**Finance Committee Report**  
Neeta Patel

Thanks to the Finance Director for the thorough reports. We are in decent shape. We have a good amount of cash on hand, but we have a lot of expenses coming up. There are unexpected expenses related to technology especially, but there are also unexpected revenues and also reduced expenditures due to COVID; so that puts us in a position to end about where we had budgeted.

**Report on the Financial Statements**  
David Brown

We are about to submit our ESSER II grants (a COVID relief grant). That funding can be used for this year, so many of the special expenses for this year will be offset by that funding. We will incorporate that funding into future reports.

**Discussion:**
- Are there restrictions on how ESSER II is used?
  - Yes there are restrictions but the allowable expenses are very broad.

2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Financial Statements for the period ending February 28, 2021.

  Moved: Alan Phan  
  Seconded: Kenzo Sung  
  Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

Lucinda Megill entered the meeting

VI. **Statements of Financial Disclosure**
All Board Members must complete these. These are due to the state by May 1, but the School District is asking for these by March 26 so they can review these and help us get into compliance prior to the May 1 deadline. Please remember that we are filling these out for the year 2020.

VIII. **Discussion of the Stars Program**
Please see the ED report for information on new information impacting our Stars Program.

**Discussion**
- We shared our decision about putting the Stars program on pause. Our partner at HIAS shared that the refugee resettlement agencies are gearing up for a significant increase in refugees coming to Philadelphia. There is a pipeline of people whose cases were stalled which is now moving. Other
refugee resettlement agencies are restructuring and gearing up their programs.

- This seems like the time to introduce ourselves as partners, as resettlement agencies are getting their new systems set up. We have struggled to partner with some of the agencies before, but now they are convening as a group, so we have a chance to build relationships with these other organizations who may be able to refer students to us. We want to be known as reliable partners to these organizations and to be ready to receive students who may be coming.
- Would we consider keeping the program going so that we can be positioned to partner with these groups now?
- For long term planning, this may be a strategic choice as we look towards expansion. In terms of mission as well as growth.
- We were saddened to put the program on hiatus. At this point in time, we decided not to enroll students in 6-8 grades. If we are able to build back the Stars program, we have slots in the middle school now.
- We still have a problem with where Stars go when they exit the program (more quickly than we originally planned). This needs to be figured out. If the majority of students we are getting are refugees, many come with limited schooling, limited literacy in their first language and gaps in school skills. The chances of them exiting in one year are relatively low.
- If there is a big number or percentage of refugees, how will this impact our counselor's work?
  - Those who are coming as refugees often have caseworkers and other supports.
  - We have been thinking about universal designing for Trauma Informed Practices, to implement practices that support students with all that they are bringing.
- By next month, we might have more of an estimate of numbers of refugees expected to be arriving in the summer and fall.

Next Steps
- We will present the draft budget to the board next month and think that will be a time for the Board to deliberate over whether to take the program off pause.

VII. Discussion of the PSSAs
Please see the ED report for information on standardized testing requirements by the US Department of Education and the PA Department of Education.

Discussion

- Are there advocacy efforts to join onto?
  - Individuals can reach out to people in public positions to make noise about this. The board can start an email chain with draft messages for board members to share and a google group.
    - Allaire can initiate the email chain. All Board members want to be included.
  - We should think about responding to the advocacy groups that pushed for the testing not to be waived.
  - Are we writing as a school board, as public officials? Where are the lines?
• Crossing the line would be advocating for our parents to opt out. We should focus our message on disapproval of the administration of the tests during the pandemic.
  • One idea we have is to optimize the morning times for students’ experience. We will start off students’ days with community building and instruction and schedule the tests for the afternoons.

IX. **School Reopening**

Please see the ED report for information on new information impacting our Hybrid Reopening.

Discussion

• Parent Meeting
• Results of the Parent Commitment Form and Staff Reopening Survey
• Currently the plan is to look at metrics for community spread as of next week. The metrics have been up and down. At of now, the metrics would point to not reopening
• All teachers will have had the chance to be vaccinated by CHOP.
• It is important that revisiting this discussion not disrupt our relationships of trust with the staff. Families would have a chance to opt out.

Does the Board agree to reopening this discussion again?

Discussion:

  • With the number of families opting for remote, do we have a staffing model that can handle that remote learning? [yes]
  • After we talk about the spring, we should do another survey to plan for the fall to find out what the families feel comfortable about.
  • I would see reopening in the Spring as a good stepping stone. Families get the choice, and staff have had a chance to be vaccinated. It sounds like we would have a manageable number of students returning.
  • Looking at just nine days max of any child opting in, today there was an elementary school that only brought back second graders and closed already. What consideration could be made for disruptions to families’ plan caused by unexpected closures?
  • What new information has emerged to lead to our revisiting this discussion?
    o All teachers have had a chance to be vaccinated.
    o Survey results of teachers:
      ■ Many teachers agree with the idea of going back but at the same time have mixed feelings about returning.
      ■ Part of mixed feelings is that it is only one day a week and no additional academic material being presented.
      ■ Part of mixed feelings also is not opposition to coming back but natural anxieties and a mix of excitement and worry.
      o 50% of our families want their students to come back. There were also students who reported not doing okay in all remote.
    • Reminder of what in-person school will be like: Morning Meeting, two outdoor times, one journaling/reflection period, one read out loud, one math fluency practice, one period of qigong, one IDR. There will be learning happening all day.
At the last meeting, we talked about how community spread impacts our decision. We had expected that community spread would go down. But this month it hasn’t dropped below 110. The spread is still there.

How to prepare for the fall is a legitimate concern. Is there any other way to prepare for the fall besides reopening?
  - If we had to do a full reopening of all 485 students, it would be hard to prepare.
  - We want teachers to have the chance to ease into teaching a smaller group of students instead of going from all remote to full capacity. We may increase teacher comfort levels with a soft reopening this spring.
  - Politicians may be painting a rosy picture, it could be a very different world we’re living in September 1.

Last meeting was draining. Can we just vote?

Why is the SDP only opening K-2?
  - Only a third of the classrooms passed the ventilation studies, so they had to start small to rectify the issues before expanding to more classrooms.
  - Teachers Union must approve the use of specific spaces.

Every fall, educators go through the feeling of having to enter with new classes. It’s always an adjustment.

3. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 hybrid model on April 14, 2021 conditional on:
   - Community Spread: If 99 new cases or fewer per 100,000 (7 day total).
   - OR teachers who want the vaccine have had the opportunity to be vaccinated in time for inoculation to be effective by 4/14/2021.

   - Moved: Pooja Agarwal
   - Seconded: Neeta Patel
   - Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan
   - Voted No: Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

4. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Folk Arts Cultural Treasures Charter School will open in the 2020-21 school year in the hybrid model if the Philadelphia Department of Public Health continues to recommend for schools to remain open.

   - Moved: Pooja Agarwal
   - Seconded: Neeta Patel
   - Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
   - Abstained: Thierry Saintine

X. **Committee Reports**

   - Development Committee
     - Alan/Allaire

Have invited more people to join the Development Committee. Trying to engage people who have networks. Have discussed having a virtual Friends of FACTS event in conjunction with the 5K. This is the moment when microdonations can make a huge impact.
Selina did a Facebook fundraiser and raised almost $1000. If others want to know how she did it, reach out to her.

XI. Other Action Items

3. 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 a Barracuda Firewall in an amount not to exceed $11,200.

4. 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 network infrastructure equipment (wifi access points, switches, racks, etc,) in an amount not to exceed $19,000.

5. 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 70 laptop docking stations in an amount not to exceed $12,000.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Innovageous for the integrating new wifi access points, switches and cabling into existing FACTS technical infrastructure in an amount not to exceed $14,000.

   Moved Resolutions 3-6: Thierry Saintine
   Seconded: Xu Lin
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

XII. Adjournment

   Moved to Adjourn: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Seconded: Neeta Patel
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
FOLK ARTS-CULTURAL TREASURES CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
Wednesday, April 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, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Not Present: Kenzo Sung
Staff Present: David Brown, Heather Green, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Principal's Report Pheng Lim

- Focus has been on the reopening [sharing a video clip]
  - Successful as an opportunity for students to reconnect
  - An opportunity for us to learn new things about how to operate during the pandemic
  - It took all of FACTS staff to reopen; every member of our staff worked together to make the goal happen
- Time for parents who want to share about how in person went for their children
  - Kids wanted more in person days; had a good time
  - The best day ever; wish to go every day. Glad to meet teacher in person and make new friends
  - Because of the cohort and who chose to go in person, broadening the circle of friends and doing different activities
- Xu, Ellen, and Pheng were guest speakers in Social Studies
  - Xu shared a powerful message on the importance of listening to each others’ stories
- Black Heritage Day celebration was in March
  - Guest speakers included a program of stories, music, drum and dance by Oni Lasana Productions, in consultation with Keepers of the Culture for lower grades.
  - Kelly Starling Lyons, author of “Sing a Song: How Lift Every Voice and Sing Inspired Generations” did an author talk and also donated copies of the book to our second and third graders.
  - Ayesha Imani from Sankofa Charter School made a powerful presentation to the upper grades, including videos made by Sankofa students.

Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa

- Learning about COVID contact tracing and positive cases
- Having a second nurse during in person days is a big help

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 March 17, 2021.

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

IV. Finance Report
Finance Committee Report Neeta Patel

Not many changes since last time we met. We will end the year with a small surplus. FACTS is saving money for rainy days that we are pretty sure are coming. We do have some flexibility to think about priorities and needs for next year.

Report on the Financial Statements David Brown

Discussion:
● Will FACTS be getting stimulus funding like the School District?  
  ○ Yes, FACTS is getting our own allocations. There are three rounds of COVID relief funding.  
  ○ There is little guidance as of yet and the forms we need to fill out have not yet been released.

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

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

V. Presentation of the Draft 2021-22 Budget
Presentation of the Draft Budget David Brown

This is a draft budget for discussion purposes. The Board will need to approve the 2021-22 budget at the May or June meeting. We need to submit our budget to the state by June 30.

Bottom Line: In 2021-22 we are budgeting for a surplus. Often what drives our surplus is that we don’t know what the per pupil allocation from the SDP will be; we base our budget on a guess. But for the past few years, the per pupil allocation has been going up more than the 1% that we budget for. Our cash reserve is now healthy with about 4 months of operating expenses. Our draft budget assumes that the per pupil allocation from the SDP will remain flat (assuming hard times coming up). In 2023-24, our projections show us starting to go into the red.
Budget Process: David and Ellen meet to talk about the big picture. David talks with Pheng about instructional needs, meets with the departments and gathers all of the needs from the departments so the budget is in tune with where we want to go educationally. We start by putting in the wish lists, and then prioritize.

Questions and concerns from the Board
- What was the per pupil this year for SPED and regular ed? Is there additional allocation for Stars students?
  - There is no additional funding to support the needs of ELD students with the exception of a small Title III allocation which doesn’t even cover our costs of translation.
  - FACTS and AAU have at times advocated on this issue. There were increases in the new state funding formula, however this funding formula only applies to new funding, so the vast majority of state funding is not guided by this or any other funding formula. And although the funding formula directed increased funding to districts with a large number of students in poverty and ELD students, the funding formula does not make the funding follow the students. This means that the School District may receive more funding due to its high percentage of ELD students, but this does not mean that the SDP allocates increased funding to schools serving a higher number of ELD students.
- Does the budget include funding for students whose needs we can’t meet at FACTS, who may need an Alternate Private School Placement?
  - Every student of our is our responsibility, but if FACTS cannot meet the needs of the student because they may benefit from a more therapeutic setting, then we may need to place them in a private school setting. Then we pay their tuition.
  - Yes, we budget for two students in APS. This is the most that have been in APS at any one time
- Local funding: What is the cause of the big drop in funding?
  - Local funding could include school fundraisers like the 5K, but also grant funding. We didn’t get the Math Grant this year.
- Why is salary decreasing between 2021-22 and 2022-23?
  - Will look into it.
  - Why are benefits going up while salary is going down?
- How math grant funding impacts program planning for next year:
  - A lot of questions about summer programs, after school programs, etc. will be part of the discussion of ESSER III.
- We will have the opportunity to amend the budget when we get new information such as our per pupil allocation. We typically approve a budget in May or June and find out what the per pupil allocation is after that. In the fall we may revise the budget and have the board approve it in the fall.
- Curious about the folk arts program.
  - We have to evaluate the modality of teaching folk arts; how has it been going virtually.
  - The ensembles program is challenging because it brings together students from different grades and clusters
- We are 130% over on IT budget; are these one time expenses? How will we budget for the future?
○ Introduction of technology into the school is new and has been covered by COVID relief grants.
○ Admin will get a report on CB damage and replacement costs. We don’t even have a year of experience. For the next three years this will be covered by stimulus grants, but we have to figure out how we will stand on our own.
○ More than the devices, it’s the cost of bigger IT staffing, upgrading infrastructure, subscriptions, and increased security needs

VI. Stars Program
In light of the Draft Budget just presented, does the Board want to reconsider the decision to put the Stars Program on pause?

● We had talked about revisiting our decision to put a pause on the Stars program
● Possibilities of changes to the refugee program
● How many students do we need to break even?
  ○ 10 to 12
● Recruitment? Are programs like Migrant Ed referring to us?
  ○ We have made outreach efforts but other than HIAS, organizations have been making referrals to us. This includes community groups like Migrant Ed, other refugee organizations, and other charter schools, all of whom we reached out to.
● This is hiring season
● Partly budget risk and also mission
  ○ We didn’t fill all of our vacant slots in 6, 7, 8. Stars students would fill in those grades.
● Could we use stimulus funding to see us through this year of under enrollment?
  ○ Likely yes. We are still waiting for guidance on ESSERIII.
● Having the committee to steward the program will be important.
● The connection between our mission, our strength and its impact on Philadelphia would make this a worthy investment.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the continuation of the Stars Program.

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

VII. Submission of the ESSER II Grant Application
4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the submission of an application for ESSER II funding in the amount of $1,719,337.
[Note: the final grant award will be based on revised student enrollment and Titles funding]

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

VIII. Committee Reports

- Development Committee  Alan/Allaire

The Committee is in the process of expanding the committee. A friend of FACTS at Price Waterhouse Cooper is running a workplace fundraising program. Alan is going to be doing a workplace fundraising program at CHUBB in support of Asian Heritage Month.

- Policy Committee  Pooja

The Committee is discussing FACTS filtering and monitoring of school issued devices. How active do we want to be in monitoring internet content in student and staff users. It raises philosophical (respect for privacy and emphasis on teaching students good cyber citizenship skills) as well as liability issues. The target would be to change for the 2021-22 school year.

IX. Other Action Items

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Nyman Associates for the supplemental provision of the services of a nurse in an amount not to exceed $6,000.

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

X. Adjournment

Moved to Adjourn: Heather Davis-Jones
Seconded: Alan Phan
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Present: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Absent: Xu Lin
Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Executive Director's Report Ellen Somekawa
   ● Presentation on school reopening planning process

   Principal's Report Pheng Lim
   ● FACTS isn’t offering a summer program.
   ● Over the summer, we will involve over 20 staff: the need to work on curriculum, evaluation, how to do assessments, improving our classroom libraries. We will also be testing students for ELD services; we need to screen both incoming K students as well as those who couldn’t be tested in person this past year
   ● Next week is Play Day: shared video
   ● Promotion Day: June 16 is the day when our 8th graders leave and move on to high school:
     ○ Virtual Ceremony
     ○ Drive Through for families with photo backdrops
     ○ On June 17: we will hold an in person closing circle for teachers and students to share reflections and memories
   ● Anti-Bias Education: We try to calendar at least three sessions a year.
     ○ Last week, we had a training on Ableism, initiated by our SPED team and planned by Innovageous with our SPED team
     ○ There are many parts of people’s identities that we need to address in anti-bias training
     ○ Next week will be a guest speaker from CHOP introducing LGBTQ issues and vocabulary
   ● Hiring: Virtual interviewing has been a positive from the pandemic. We are not losing many teachers, but there is some movement of current staff into different positions.
     ○ We posted a video on the hiring page of our website of FACTS teachers sharing why they work at FACTS
   ● T. Griffin returned this week after a period of leave. She extends her gratitude to the community for its support.

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 April 21, 2021.
IV. Finance Report

Finance Committee Report

Neeta Patel

Thanks to David for the concise and clear reports. We will end the year in good shape despite the decrease in our number of students. Part of how the decreased income was offset by savings in costs of operations given our extended building closure. We expect to end the year with a small surplus. (The surplus is bigger if you count the ESSER funding) We expect to operate in the black this year.

Report on the Financial Statements

David Brown

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Financial Statements for the period ending April 30, 2021.

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

V. Adoption the 2021-22 Budget

Presentation of the Budget

David Brown

This draft budget was presented at the last board meeting for discussion purposes.

We are required to submit our passed budget by the end of June. We do not know the per pupil allocation. We anticipate that we will be presenting a revised budget in the fall for the board to adopt after some of these big questions are answered. Also the ESSER III funding is not included in this budget; that would be income in and expenses out so it will not change our operating budget.

Discussion

- Is it anticipated that there will be an increase in enrollment next year?
  - If we are trying to create social distancing, we are questioning whether we fill all of the spots. This is a point of discussion.
  - In addition, keeping our Kindergarten enrollment slightly smaller is helpful
  - We can use ESSER funds to offset some of the enrollment decline.
  - We anticipate enrolling some new Stars students.
  - Has there been much mobility in our student body?
    - There are two families who are moving to different districts, but mainly our population is remaining steady.
3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School adopts the budget for the 2021-22 school year.

   Moved: Pooja Agarwal  
   Seconded: Thierry Saintine  
   Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, 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 adopts the Continuity of Education Plan for the 2020-21 school year.

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

VII. Hiring

   ● Still recruiting. Labor supply is tight.  
   ● Prioritizing getting school leadership bios and photos on the website as part of our effort to recruit a diverse candidate pool

VIII. Committee Reports

   ● Development Committee Alan/Allaire

   Two new parent members joined the Development Committee. The Price Waterhouse Cooper campaign has raised a little over $3000. There is also a campaign at CHUBB; CHUBB will match employee donations. On the website, the donate button is way at the bottom. Could it be moved to the tab bar?

IX. Other Action Items

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Independence Blue Cross in an amount not to exceed $620,000 for the provision of health and vision insurance.

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with DG Network Solutions in an amount not to exceed $14,000 for the purchase of docking stations and other peripherals that support the move to school issued staff laptops.

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with DG Network Solutions in an amount not to exceed $60,000 for the provision of an IT network maintenance plan.
8. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Interstate Premier Services in an amount not to exceed $100,000 for the provision of custodial services.

9. **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 $4990 for the provision and installation of a kitchen exhaust fan.

10. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with MetLife in an amount not to exceed $45,000 for the provision of dental insurance.

11. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with The Hartford in an amount not to exceed $12,500 for the provision of short term disability insurance.

12. **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 $4990 for the replacement of a rear fire door.

13. **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 $3,000 for the provision and installation of an Air Phone Video Intercom System.

14. **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 $4,600 for the provision and installation of a classroom air purifier system.

Moved #5-14: Heather Davis-Jones  
Seconded: Allaire Wohlgemuth  
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

**X. Adjournment**

Moved to Adjourn: Thierry Saintine  
Seconded: Pooja Agarwal  
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Heather Davis-Jones, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Alan Phan, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
FOLK ARTS-CULTURAL TREASURES CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
1023 Callowhill Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123
Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 6:30 p.m.
Via Zoom Meeting (Zoom Invitation posted on website)

Present: Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
Absent: Pooja Agarwal, Alan Phan
Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School reviewed and approved the Flexible Instructional Day Program.
   Moved: Allaire Wohlgemuth
   Seconded: Xu Lin
   Voted Yes: Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth

III. Adjournment
    Moved to Adjourn: Kenzo Sung
    Seconded: Thierry Saintine
    Voted Yes: Heather Davis-Jones, Xu Lin, Selina Morales, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Kenzo Sung, Allaire Wohlgemuth
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

I. Call to Order: Selina Morales

II. Executive Director’s Report Ellen Somekawa

Principal’s Report Pheng Lim

- 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
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
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:

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

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