

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

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 6:30 p.m.
1023 Callowhill Street/Philadelphia, PA 19123

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Alison Lin (left at 8:40), Nancy Nguyen, Alan Phan, Leana Cabral, Pooja Agarwal

Board Members Absent: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Staff Members Present: Claire Denny (left 7:11pm), Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa, David Brown

Members of the Public Present: School District of Philadelphia Team: Cameron Voss, Elizabeth Parambath.

I. Call to Order Time: 6:36pm Thierry Saintine

II. Public Comment
Discussion: No public in attendance.

III. Introduction of the Charter School Office Charter Renewal Site Visit Team
Discussion: Here as part of charter renewal.

IV. Folk Arts Education at FACTS
Presentation Claire Denny, Folk Arts-Education Specialist
Discussion:
We all did Me Myself and my Folklife Worksheet and Thierry and Elizabeth shared their responses.

Can you tell us which ensembles are up and running?

- Lion Dance and Kung Fu - Sifu John
- Dan Tranh (Vietnamese zither) - Teacher Nhan
- African Diaspora Drumming - Teacher Senfuab
- Hip Hop - Teacher Kenny

Artists like coming back and we like having continuity with the artists; these are the same four ensemble artists from last year.

Depth and breadth of residencies

- T. Veronica, 5 +7th for Day of Dead residency
- T Veronica, Stars, Mexican puppetry
- T. Hua Hua - Chinese Puppetry -4th graders
- T Losanf - Tibetan Sand Mandala - school wide residency
- T. Gbahtuo - 6th grade, Liberian story telling

11 ritual days.

V. **Principal's Report**

Pheng Lim

Discussion:

No Discussion

Executive Director's Report

Ellen Somekawa

Discussion:

- Passing on of traditions of resistance is stunning. Generations are learning how to do this work. Hope that this can come through in the curriculum; we should be proud of this.
- 6th grade curriculum on organizing also have a unit where students chose a cause and research it and have an action plan and share it with others. Can continue to build on that.
- \$25,000 is the National Endowment for the Arts grant we get every year, but the number changes and has to be matched by non-federal funds.
- Do you need Board Members present on Nov 15 for the Charter Renewal Site Visit?
 - No but all are welcome to come as it is Honor Our Elders Day.
 - The Site Visit will observe the school and meet with stakeholders in relation to mission elements that we provided (Folk Arts Education, School Pledge, Stars Program). Stakeholder meetings will be on zoom; board members will be invited.

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 August 21, 2024.

Moved: Alan Phan

Seconded: Jeff Koung

Voted Yes: Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine,, Alison Lin, Nancy Nguyen

Abstained: Leana Cabral, Pooja Agarwal

VII. **Finance Report**

Presentation

David Brown

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the August 30, 2024 Financial Statements.

Discussion:

Per pupil - rates have varied. The increases the past two years have been 10% plus and these funds are helping us to maintain positions previously funded by ESSER funds.

The main impact of the Fair Funding lawsuit is expected to come in the next several years.

Moved: Leana Cabral

Seconded: Pooja Agarwal

Voted Yes: Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Alison Lin, Nancy Nguyen, Alan Phan

VIII. Convening the Audit Committee

The role of the Audit Committee

Thierry Saintine

The committee needs to convene in October

Who will join this committee?

Discussion: Thierry is convening and will ask which 2-3 board members will join, The Audit Committee will meet once in October.

IX. Signers on the Asian Bank Account

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves that the signers on the accounts held and managed by Asian Bank be changed as follows: David Brown and Ellen Somekawa shall remain as signers on the accounts. Pheng Lim should be removed as a signer on the accounts. New signers to be added to the account shall be Thierry Elin-Saintine and Neeta Patel.

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Nancy Nguyen

Voted Yes: Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Alison Lin, Alan Phan, Leana Cabral, Pooja Agarwal

X. Approving the Use of E-Signature with the PDE's eGrants System

4. BE IT RESOLVED by authority of the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School, and it is hereby resolved by authority of the same, that Ellen Somekawa, who is the Executive Director of the above named body is authorized and directed to sign any and all contracts, agreements, grants and/or licenses (hereinafter collectively referred to as contract(s)) with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (Department); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body consents to the use of electronic signatures by the above named individual and that no handwritten signature from the above named individual shall be required in order for any contract with the Department to be legally enforceable and that by affixing his/her electronic signature to an electronic file of the contract via the Department's e-grants system, the above designated authorized individual shall have effectively executed and delivered the contract, binding the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School to comply with the terms of said contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no writing shall be required in order to make the contract valid and legally binding, provided that the Department and all other necessary Commonwealth approvers affix their signatures electronically and an electronically-printed copy of the Contract is e-mailed or is otherwise made available to the body by electronic means; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will not contest the due authorization, execution, delivery, validity or enforceability of the electronic Contract under the provisions of a statute of frauds or any other applicable law. The Contract, if introduced as evidence on paper in any judicial, arbitration, mediation, or administrative proceedings, will be admissible as between the parties to the same extent and under the same conditions as other business records originated and maintained in documentary form and the admissibility thereof shall not be contested under either the business records exception to the hearsay rule or the best evidence rule; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the body will notify the Department's Bureau of Management Services promptly in the event that the above named individual is no longer authorized to execute agreements on behalf of the body electronically and that the Department shall be entitled to rely upon the above named officer's authority to execute agreements electronically on behalf of the body until such notice is received by the Department's Office of Chief Counsel.

[certification of the resolution to be signed by Board officers and ED]

Discussion: Note that next summer when Ellen leaves that we need all of the e-signatures and other accounts such as Asian Bank.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Xu Lin,, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Alison Lin, Nancy Nguyen, Alan Phan, Leana Cabral

XI. Revision of the Title IX Policy

Presentation

Pooja Agarwal

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves amending the Title IX Policy.

Discussion: We made a change to account for if a person doesn't want to go to Title IX officer, they can go to another person and other clarifying language. Also officer and investigator roles are now separate. Staff wide training happening next week.

Moved: Alison Lin

Seconded: Neeta Patel,

Voted Yes: Xu Lin, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Nancy Nguyen, Alan Phan, Leana Cabral, Pooja Agarwal

XII. Committee Reports

- Development Committee:

Discussion: 5K is coming up, sponsors keep coming in. Teams are important - please make it a tradition. The Parent Committee is moving from the Development Committee to Admin. Using WeChat group, talk about doing phone calls next year again calling from FACTS. Alumni gathering is also happening. Trying to build and rebuild community.

- Nominations Committee
Discussion: Have an interview coming in.

XIV. Action Items

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures charter school approves the purchase of acoustical tiles from MIggle USA in an amount not to exceed \$21,000

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures charter school approves contracting with Gen3 for the installation of acoustical panels in the third floor common room in an amount not to exceed \$9300.

Moved Resolutions 6 and 7: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Nancy Nguyen

Voted Yes: Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Alison Lin (left at 8:45), Alan Phan, Leana Cabral

XIV. Executive Session

- Discussing Personnel Matters;
- Considering the purchase or lease of real property

XV. Return to Public Session

XVI. Adjournment Time: 9:35 pm

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Leana Cabral

Voted Yes: Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Alan Phan, Leana Cabral