

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

Wednesday, July 30, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom (posted on website: www.factschool.org)

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Koung, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine,

Board Members Absent: Allaire Wohlgemuth

Staff Members Present: Ellen Somekawa

- I. **Call to Order** time 6:33 Thierry Elin-Saintine
- II. **Public Comment** n/a
- III. **Executive Session** time 6:34 Thierry Elin-Saintine
To consider the purchase or lease of real property up to the time an option to purchase or lease the real property is obtained.
- IV. **Return to Public Session** time 7:00 pm
- V. **Pre-Development Services Agreement**
 1. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves executing the First Amendment to Pre-Development Services and Reimbursement Agreement with Building Hope and increasing the Developer's spending limit on Development Services from \$50,000 to \$175,000.
Moved: Jeffrey Koung
Seconded: Pooja Agarwal
Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Koung, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine
Voted No: n/a
Abstained: n/a
- VI. **Renewal of the Lease Agreement**
 2. **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School authorizes the Executive Director to enter into a renewal of the lease agreement for 1023 Callowhill Street/Philadelphia, PA 19123 with Ho Wong RE Investment according to the terms discussed in executive session.
Moved: Alison Lin
Seconded: Frank Chism

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Koung, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine

Voted No: n/a

Abstained: n/a

VII. Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of the 2025 Charter Agreement

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School i) authorizes the execution and delivery of the 2025 Charter Renewal Agreement; ii) affirms that no members of the Charter Board or their immediate family, as defined under the Pennsylvania Public Official and Employee Ethics Act ("Ethics Act"), will have business dealings with the Charter School, and that the Charter Board will comply with the Ethics Act; and iii) provides the names and email addresses of the officers of the Charter Board and authorizes the following individuals to execute and request payments under the Charter:

- Thierry Elin-Saintine, Chair: Thierry@board.factschool.org
- Xu Lin, Vice Chair: Xu@board.factschool.org
- Neeta Patel, Treasurer: Neeta@board.factschool.org
- Allaire Wohlgemuth, Secretary: Allaire@board.factschool.org

Discussion: **Should we update this to reflect Allaire's departure from the Board?** In order to ensure that the School District of Philadelphia (SDP) Charter School office can present our renewal for vote and authorization at the SDP August 2025 Board Meeting, Allaire as current Secretary, will still need to certify the Charter School Agreement as soon as possible. FACTS prospective Board members will be invited to the September Board meeting and we will then update the Charter School office accordingly.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Frank Chism

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Koung, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine

Voted No: n/a

Abstained: n/a

VIII. Other Action Items

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Rudd Associates for Development Consulting Services in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Frank Chism

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Koung, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine

Voted No: n/a

Abstained: n/a

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Iron Mountain Scanning for Document Digitizing and Destruction Services in an amount not to exceed \$40,000.

Discussion: **Does this raise concerns or have any implications regarding student privacy and safety?** Concerns about FERPA student privacy and confidentiality are built into the business model of these companies who are premised on security and confidentiality. Once we receive it, Pooja will review and amend the contract as needed. **Can we afford to do this?** This is affordable as we had a surplus in last year's budget; 25-26 budget will be revised to reflect this.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Frank Chism

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Kountz, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine

Voted No: n/a

Abstained: n/a

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves hiring the following employees:

- Elizabeth Burke as a Special Education Assistant at an hourly rate of \$22.75
- Pratima Agrawal as an Instructional Building Substitute at an hourly rate of \$26.00
- Nadia Sor as a part time School Culture Assistant at an hourly rate of \$18.20.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Frank Chism

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Kountz, Alison Lin, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine

Voted No: n/a

Abstained: n/a

Discussion: **Who left?** Teacher Tom resigned unexpectedly and that this will have a cascading effect on current staffing as people shift positions according to people's interests and our needs. **Have there been any changes regarding federal funding cuts?** Federal funding still remains erratic, there has not been restoration of federal funding cuts. New Supreme Court rulings will also have implications for operations. **How best should we engage our legal counsel regarding these changes?** The Policy Committee will review legal guidance issued and determine next steps.

IX. Motion for Adjournment Time 7:43 pm

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Pooja Agarwal

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeffrey Koung, Alison Lin, Xu Lin,
Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine

Voted No: n/a

Abstained: n/a