

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Kounig, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

Board Absent: Alison Lin

Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa

Public Present: Mira Cooper, Serena Moy (Edgility Search): arrived at 7:00 pm

I. Call to Order Thierry Elin-Saintine

II. Public Comment [5 minutes]
No public present

III. Community Building with the Board [10 minutes]
Introduction Thierry Elin-Saintine

IV. Principal's Report [5 minutes] Pheng Lim

Executive Director's Report [2 minutes] Ellen Somekawa

Questions and Discussion [3 minutes]

V. Executive Director Search [30 minutes]
Recommendation of a search firm Thierry and David
Presentation by Edgility Search

Discussion:

- Question: Would like to learn the 5 or 6 things that often go wrong; or the 5 or 6 most important things. (Pitfalls to avoid and best practices)
 - Response: Will have a working session with the board early on; it is important to prioritize the top three competency areas. Will force the choice down to three. important to get board buy in. Cadence of biweekly meetings is important to get frequent feedback, surface concerns; keep the trains moving in the right direction. Want to avoid a lack of transparency with the community; hear as many voices as possible. Leadership searches can produce anxiety. This also provides FACTS with a snapshot of our community, what is important to people. Sets the new ED up for success. Edgility uses a search site that houses all of the materials related to the search
- Question: What is the role of Admin in the search process?
 - Response: ED is an outward facing role; you need a strong communicator; overseeing staff, operations, managing staff and layers of staff. Will be looking for charter school experience in community based charter schools. Admin members are part of the

discovery process; meet with direct reports. Some members are part of the search committee. Ask them to be part of the finalist round. Important to be responsive to you all. Have seen Admin teams throw things off.

- Question: What is your process for outreach and networks; how do you go about expanding your networks?
 - Have 40,000 applicants in the system. Some have gone far into the process. Will post in LinkedIn and other job boards. A cultivation person will do cultivation calls. Will ask for referrals and connectors
- Concern that Edgility says that we would be looking for experienced charter school leader. Not sure this is the case. Instead would prioritize understanding of mission. Want to know the preconceptions Edgility is starting with.
- What happens if we hit March and things are not where we need them to be?
- Want to base contract not on number of months but on completion of the search cycle.

VI. Engaging ED Search Firm

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Edgility Search for executive search services in an amount not to exceed \$70,000.

Moved: Jeff Koung

Seconded Xu Lin

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

VII. Approval of the Minutes [5 minutes]

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the Minutes of the September 17, 2025 Board Meeting.

Moved: Frank Chism

Seconded: Mohan Seshadri

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

VII. Approval of the Financial Statements [5 minutes] Presentation

Neeta Patel

Note that Financial Statements are using the budget passed last spring.

Discussion:

Why are expenditures for supplies such a high percentage given that we are early in the school year? [Supplies purchases are frontloaded, with much purchasing early in the year. We are still early in the fiscal year.]

2. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the September 30, 2025 Financial Statements.

Moved: Xu Lin

Seconded: Pooja Agarwal

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

VIII. Approval of the Revised Budget [10 minutes]

Presentation

David Brown

We are required to submit our approved budget in June but don't learn of the next year's per pupil allocation until later. Information on the per pupil rate comes late so that we typically pass a revised budget the following fall. Income is up \$1M. Also a salary increase that was triggered by the rise in the per pupil rate led to an increase in expenses. The revised budget reflects the actual staffing, prices of health insurance, etc. A contingency line is included in the budget. Experts predict that the per pupil rate will level out and will not continue to have high increases as we have seen for the past few years.

Discussion and Questions

- If the per pupil allocations level out, will we still be in a good position for our expansion?
 - Yes. Projections for future years are based on a 3% increase in per pupil per year.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision of the 2025-26 fiscal year budget.

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

IX. Establishment of AdHoc Audit Committee[10 mins] Neeta Patel

Presentation of the roles and responsibilities of the audit committee

Soliciting members willing to serve on the Audit Committee. It will involve one meeting with the auditor as well as time spent reviewing the audit. An opportunity to take a deep dive into our finances, be walked through the audit by the auditors,

Audit Committee Members: Thierry Saintine, Jeff Koung, Frank Chism.
Neeta will reach out to members of the Finance Committee to see if anyone else wants to join

X. Adoption of the Dissolution Plan

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School adopts the revised Dissolution Plan.

Moved: Neeta Patel

Seconded: Xu Lin

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

XI. Other Committee Reports [15 minutes]

Development Committee

Frank Chism

- 5K: We raised \$48,000. We budgeted to raise \$40,000.
- Nancy Nguyen rolled off the Committee. Two non board members joined the Development Committee.

Expansion Committee

Ellen Somekawa

- Building Hope and the seller executed a Purchase Sale Agreement.
- After getting the PSA signed, FACTS sent messages to the staff and parent community about the building project.
- Ellen worked with Building Hope and PIDC to apply for Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding. The application is for \$5M in funding for building construction. It is a political process so will require gaining legislators' and the Governor's support.

XII. Other Action Items [5 minutes]

6. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with PowerSchool for additional Student Information System components and trainings in an amount not to exceed \$15,000.

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with PowerSchool for additional Special Education components and trainings in an amount not to exceed \$8,000.

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Rediker for the provision of Student Information System Renewal in an amount not to exceed \$14,000.

Moved # 6, 7, 8: Xu Lin

Seconded: Neeta Patel

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri

XIII. Adjournment

Moved: Pooja Agarwal

Seconded: Frank Chism

Voted Yes: Pooja Agarwal, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine, Mohan Seshadri