

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

Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

In person at FACTS: 1023 Callowhill Street/Philadelphia, PA 19123

Meeting Minutes

Present:, Frank Chism, Jeff Koung, Xu Lin, Neeta Patel, Thierry Elin-Saintine (remotely), Alison Lin,

Board Absent: Pooja Agarwal, Mohan Seshadri

Staff Present: David Brown, Pheng Lim, Ellen Somekawa, Katie Solitrin (Union Rep)

Public Present: Mira Cooper, (Edgility Search): arrived at 7:00 pm; Justin Little, Iliya Krutko (Building Hope) arrived at 7:35

I Call to Order Xu Lin

II. Public Comment [5 minutes]
None

III. Executive Session [1 hour]

- Discussing Personnel Matters
- Invited Mara to join from Egility.

IV. Return to Public Session (7:35pm)

V. New Facility Updates [15 minutes]
Presentation Building Hope
Discussion

We are at schematic Design and Pricing. Schedules and milestones shared. Draft condominium agreements will be shared for our lawyers. Update on our financing efforts and delay of certain possibilities because of government shutdown. Request to send lease LOI.

1. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves amending the PreDevelopment Agreement with Building Hope to increase the Developer's spending limit on Development Services from \$175,000 to \$721,400.

Moved: Thierry Elin-Saintine

Seconded: Frank Chism

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

VI. Principal's Report [3 minutes] Pheng Lim

FACTS was ranked by *US News and World Report* in Pennsylvania as #1 for middle school charters, #2 for elementary school charters. Upcoming family movie sing along on Friday, KPop Demon Hunters. ELD family events in the first week of Dec. Honor Our Elders was on Monday. After school clubs and programs, there are 12.

Executive Director's Report

Ellen Somekawa

The lottery and application information is live on the website. Members from the Philadelphia Board of Education will be touring FACTS soon. The state budget was passed. The state of charter schools in Philadelphia and funding updates for the expansion.

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 October 15, 2025 Board Meeting.

Moved: Thierry Elin-Saintine

Seconded: Neeta Patel

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

Abstained: Alison Lin

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

Neeta Patel

We have applied the new budget and are where we thought we would be. Budget impasses at state and national government did not impact our cash flow.

3. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the October 31, 2025 Financial Statements.

Moved: Frank Chism

Seconded: Jeff Koung

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

IX. Acceptance of the Audit [10 mins]

Alison Lin

Report from the audit committee
Questions and Discussion

The deadline for submission to the state is pushed back because of the government shut down and lack of guidelines.

4. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School accepts the audited financial statements for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Moved: Thierry Elin-Saintine

Seconded: Alison Lin

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

X. Policy Committee [10 minutes]

Ellen Somekawa

5. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision of the Admissions and Enrollment Policy.

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

7. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves the revision of the Anti-Harassment Policy.

Batched resolutions 5, 6, and 7 together:

Moved: Frank Chism

Seconded: Xu Lin

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

XI. Other Committee Reports [10 minutes]

Development Committee

Frank Chism

- Need to strategize how to send out thank you letters. Everyone take some home and we will write some. Jeff and Frank will instruct the board members via email.

Search Committee

David Brown

- Town meeting for staff on Friday after work. Still in the discovery process.

Nominations Committee

Xu Lin

- No updates, looking for members temporarily.
- Thierry will join and Frank is also willing.

XII. Other Action Items [5 minutes]

8. BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Folk Arts-Cultural Treasures Charter School approves contracting with Cintas in an amount not to exceed \$8,000 for the repair of sprinklers and a five year flow test of the standpipe system.

Moved: Neeta Patel,

Seconded: Frank Chism

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

XIII. Adjournment at 8:25pm

Moved: Neeta Patel,

Seconded: Jeff Koung

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