



PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – CENTRAL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
October 14, 2025
6:00 PM
HELD AT PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – CENTRAL AND VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Curtis Kossman	Dan Lynch	Maria Paluselli
David Baker	Terry Smith	Darlene Brown
Dr. Jean Ferketish		David Mongillo
Dan Sponseller		Vivi Besteman
Julie Shepard		
Sallie Richards		

The meeting was preceded by a reception to recognize 10-year staff, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Curtis Kossman convened the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 9, 2025 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

ACTION: Upon motion by David Baker, seconded by Curtis Kossman, the September 9, 2025 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Enrollment & Hiring Reports

Enrollment Report

The Board reviewed the enrollment report prepared by Ms. Paluselli. Ms. Paluselli shared that as of October 2025, there are 312 students currently enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year, and

one student who is in the process of enrolling, for a total of 313 students. Maximum enrollment capacity for PCS Central is 336 students.

Hiring Report

Maria Paluselli reviewed the monthly hiring report. There were two hourly new hires to report, including De'Shawna McHenry (DTD Substitute) and Hillary Stahl (DTD Substitute). Additionally, there were three promotions/role changes to report, including Brooke Hartman, from Building Substitute to Third Grade Teacher; Amy Kraft, from DTD Substitute to Second Grade Teacher; and Dayna Sirianni, from Technology Administrative Assistant to Special Education Paraprofessional. There were two separations to report, including a Special Education Paraprofessional and Second/Third Grade Teacher.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by David Baker, the October Hiring Report was unanimously approved.

Investment Policy Review

Darlene Brown shared that First Commonwealth Bank (FCB) will attend the November Board Meeting to discuss the investment strategy for PCS with the Board. FCB's investment authority will be pursuant to a formal investment policy for PCS. Ms. Brown reviewed a sample investment policy prepared by FCB, along with a draft investment policy prepared by Ms. Brown, with the Board. The Board was asked to review and comment on these proposed policies ahead of the November meeting.

Finance Report & Vendor Purchases

Finance Report

Darlene Brown presented the financial report for September 2025.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by David Baker, the financial report for September 2025 was unanimously approved.

Vendor Purchases

Darlene Brown presented the vendor purchases for September 2025. Maria Paluselli highlighted an expense for Summit Studios, producer of *Empowered Hosted by Meg Ryan*. *Empowered* is a nationally recognized program that showcases organizations and individuals making a significant impact in their communities. The program is distributed to public television stations across the United States. Summit Studios will visit PCS on November 20 for interviews with parents, students and staff. The vendor purchases were otherwise ordinary and routine.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dan Sponseller, seconded by David Baker, the vendor purchases for September 2025 were unanimously approved.

Fund Transfer

Darlene Brown asked the Board to consider authorizing a \$1M transfer of excess funds in the School's Money Market Fund to the Investment (Capital Improvement) Account. This proposal was previously discussed at the September 9, 2025 Board Meeting (see meeting minutes).

ACTION: Upon motion by Dan Sponseller, seconded by Curtis Kossman, the \$1M fund transfer from the Money Market Fund to the Investment (Capital Improvement) Account was unanimously approved.

Account Closing

Darlene Brown shared that the FCB Capital Improvement Account has a \$10K fund balance that has remained unchanged since the account was opened. Ms. Brown asked the Board to consider authorizing the School to close the account and transfer the \$10K fund balance to the School's Investment Account.

ACTION: Upon motion by Dan Sponseller, seconded by Curtis Kossman, the closing of the FCB Capital Improvement Account and transfer of the \$10K fund balance to the School's Investment Account was unanimously approved.

Other

Facilities Updates

Maria Paluselli shared that there are several facilities upgrades that will need to take place at PCS Central in the coming months, including updates to the A/C system, sprinkler system, and bathrooms. Further discussion will take place regarding these upgrades.

General Updates

Maria Paluselli shared that the Pennsylvania state budget impasse is ongoing and continues to affect grant funding (including the CSP Grant) to the School, as well as tuition reimbursement payments that are due to the School from students' home districts. Ms. Paluselli indicated that districts who have failed to make tuition reimbursement payments have been contacted by PCS.

Ms. Paluselli indicated that PCS will be presenting at the International Dyslexia Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, which will take place on October 23-25, 2025.

Ms. Paluselli informed the Board that former Board member Mike Brady has tendered his resignation, effective immediately. A replacement treasurer will need to be identified.

Finally, Ms. Paluselli shared that Ameer Baraka will be hosting a speaker event and book signing at both PCS Central and West on November 13, 2025. Mr. Baraka is an actor, author and dyslexia advocate. His book was published to raise awareness about dyslexia and to encourage others to overcome the challenges that are associated with the diagnosis.

Foundation/Donor Tour

Dr. Jean Ferketish shared that tours of PCS will take place on October 28, 2025 starting at 9 a.m. Donors such as the Eden Hall Foundation, Richard King Mellon Foundation, and McCune Foundation have been invited to attend, and Board members are encouraged to reach out to additional invitees. The tours will highlight some of the unique opportunities PCS has to offer, including Taekwondo; Makerspace; small group instruction; and more.

2024-2025 Impact Report

Maria Paluselli reviewed the draft 2024-2025 Impact Report with the Board and requested feedback prior to finalization. The Board proposed several changes, including the addition of information regarding the total number of students who have been served by PCS since founding; the geographic impact of PCS; and information regarding upcoming capital improvement projects.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.