



PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – WEST
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

Maria Paluselli shared that as of October 2025, there are 89 students currently enrolled for the 2025-2026 school year, and nine students who are in the process of enrolling, for a total of 98

students. The Board discussed ways to continue spreading the word about the School to surrounding communities.

Hiring Report

Maria Paluselli reviewed the monthly hiring report. There was one salaried new hire to report, Grant Riley, Technology Specialist. Additionally, there was one promotion/role change to report, Julie Snatchko, from Interventionist at PCS Central to Interventionist at PCS West. There were no separations to report.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Julie Shepard, 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 Dr. Jean Ferketish, the financial report for September 2025 was unanimously approved.

Vendor Purchases

Darlene Brown presented the vendor purchases for September 2025. The vendor purchases were ordinary and routine.

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

Other

Facilities Updates

Maria Paluselli shared that the Principal for PCS West met with the School's parent group recently to discuss the possibility of fundraising for a playground at the School. The Board

discussed ways to help support the funding efforts for the new playground, including exploring potential grant opportunities with philanthropic partners like Eden Hall and Shell.

In addition, Ms. Paluselli indicated that a new fire hydrant will need to be installed at PCS West in the coming months and is expected to cost between \$10K-\$12K.

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.