PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – CENTRAL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
February 10, 2026
6:00 PM
HELD AT PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – CENTRAL AND VIA ZOOM

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Curtis Kossman*		Maria Paluselli
Dan Lynch*		Dr. Rachel Owens*
David Baker*		Darlene Brown*
Dr. Jean Ferketish		Lisa Augustin*
Julie Shepard		David Mongillo
Sallie Richards		Vivi Besteman
Shiela Conway		

*Via Zoom

Curtis Kossman convened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment

Curtis Kossman introduced and summarized the contents of a letter addressed to the Board from a PCS parent who has requested additional attention to the development of students' executive functioning skills.

Maria Paluselli provided background on the measures currently in place to address executive functioning challenges. These include, for example, specialized professional development opportunities for teachers, such as trainings focused on student study skills and organization of materials. Ms. Paluselli noted that organization has been identified as a primary area of need, as it directly impacts students' ability to complete homework and manage assignments effectively. Ms. Paluselli indicated that the school will continue to explore additional strategies and supports to strengthen executive functioning skills across grade levels.

Sallie Richards commented that the school's approach to executive functioning has evolved over time and acknowledged having seen meaningful adjustments in practice. Ms. Richards emphasized the importance of improving communication with families regarding the actions being taken, particularly ensuring clearer communication between grade levels. While significant work is being done, Ms. Richards noted that not all parents may be fully aware of these efforts.

The Board agreed on the importance of continued focus in this area and clear communication with families regarding ongoing and future initiatives.

Approval of Minutes

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

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Julie Shepard, the December 9, 2025 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Governance Matters

Maria Paluselli reviewed the recently amended PCS Bylaws with the Board, noting that the Bylaws were revised to reflect removal of the Nominating Committee, which will be an Ad Hoc Committee moving forward.

Julie Shepard raised a question regarding the nondiscrimination language in Section 11.01 of the Bylaws. In particular, Ms. Shepard inquired about the precedence of different nondiscrimination laws or policies in the event of a conflict. Mr. Mongillo indicated that in the event of a conflict, federal law will generally take precedence over state law, and either law will take precedence over school policies.

ACTION: Upon motion by David Baker, seconded by Shiela Conway, the Board moved to approve the updated Bylaws.

2026-2027 School Calendar

Dr. Rachel Owens reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 School Calendar with the Board. Dr. Owens noted that the calendar went through several iterations of drafting, review, and feedback from staff prior to being finalized. Overall, Dr. Owens reported that the response to the calendar has been overwhelmingly positive.

Dr. Owens highlighted several changes that are being incorporated into the calendar for the upcoming school year. For example, Dr. Owens noted that pursuant to recent updates to state law, the calendar is based on total instructional hours rather than school days. With this change, the calendar reflects a school year beginning August 20, 2026 and concluding June 4, 2027. The calendar also incorporates designated staff work-from-home and in-service days (no school for students), primarily scheduled on Mondays following the end of each academic quarter. Another notable change is the elimination of half days for the upcoming school year. The general consensus from both parents and staff is that removing half days will provide relief and reduce scheduling pressures.

ACTION: Upon motion by Shiela Conway, seconded by Sallie Richards, the Board moved to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar.

Comprehensive Plan

Maria Paluselli reviewed the Comprehensive Plan with the Board, which has been prepared pursuant to PDE requirements. The Comprehensive Plan reflects seven overarching goals, including: (1) fostering academic discourse across all contents (in essence, encouraging student voices); (2) implementation of MTSS at PCS (which is used to identify interventions for certain groups); (3) ELA growth and attainment (in response to a decline in test scores following the switch to online PSSAs); (4) math growth and attainment(again, in response to a decline in test scores following the switch to online PSSAs); (5) implementation of ASCA student standards (American School Counselor Association); (6) development of a positive school climate (through creation of a written framework implementing PDE school climate standards); and (7) improved communication and transparency (through, e.g., virtual meetings with families and other similar initiatives).

The detailed Comprehensive Plan presentation was included with the materials for the meeting.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Dr. Jean Ferketish, the Board moved to approve the Comprehensive Plan.

Investment Policy Review

The Board reviewed the updated PCS Investment Policy, which is a product of efforts by Darlene Brown, David Mongillo and First Commonwealth Bank (FCB). Mr. Mongillo gave a summary of major policy provisions, including that the policy has been updated to authorize investments in equities in an allocation up to 30%, with the equity allocation being funded from accrued interest on existing investments. The policy has also been drafted to reflect the certain types of approved equity investments which are aligned with PCS's mission and values (e.g., investments in tobacco and firearms are prohibited).

Mr. Mongillo requested feedback from the Board regarding whether to broaden the language in the updated policy that currently limits the funding source for equity investments to the accrued interest earned on existing investments. For example, Mr. Mongillo inquired whether this should be updated such that the requirement to use accrued interest is only for the first six months after the policy is placed in effect. The Board discussed and determined that it is preferable to keep the language as currently drafted in order to reduce the risk associated with equity investments.

Mr. Mongillo indicated that if there are no other changes, the policy can be approved subject to final review and confirmation from FCB.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Dan Lynch, the Board moved to approve the updated Investment Policy subject to final review and confirmation from FCB.

Finance Report & Vendor Purchases

Finance Report

Darlene Brown presented the financial report for December 2025 and January 2026. Ms. Brown noted growth in the PCS Central general fund, as well as a recent transfer of $500K from the school's general account to the money market account. In addition, Ms. Brown reviewed the balance sheet with the Board, indicating that the figures reflected in the balance sheet are tracking budgeted amounts.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Julie Shepard, the financial report for December 2025 and January 2026 was unanimously approved.

Vendor Purchases

Darlene Brown presented the vendor purchases for December 2025 and January 2026, which were generally ordinary and routine. Ms. Brown noted some seasonal expenses, such as snow removal costs and increased electric bills.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Julie Shepard, the vendor purchases for December 2025 and January 2026 were unanimously approved.

Enrollment & Hiring Reports

Enrollment Report

The Board reviewed the enrollment report prepared by Maria Paluselli. Ms. Paluselli shared that there are currently 312 students enrolled at PCS Central for the 2025-2026 school year. Maximum enrollment capacity for PCS Central is 336 students. Ms. Paluselli noted that the open enrollment period for the 2026-2027 school year began on February 1, 2026 and will end on February 28, 2026.

Hiring Report

Maria Paluselli reviewed the monthly hiring report. There was one salaried new hire to report, Andrew Fueller, Data Specialist. There were no role changes or separations to report.

ACTION: Upon motion by Shiela Conway, seconded by Dr. Jean Ferketish, the January Hiring Report was unanimously approved.

General Updates

Board Appreciation Month

Ms. Paluselli shared that January was Board appreciation month, and thanked the Board for their continued efforts in supporting the PCS community.

Upcoming School Events

Ms. Paluselli shared some upcoming school events with the Board. In particular, Ms. Paluselli noted that the PCS musical, *James and the Giant Peach, Jr.*, will take place on Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

In addition, Ms. Paluselli reported that the *I MADE it! Market* will take place on February 28, 2026. This event gives PCS students the chance to create items that can be sold in a student marketplace and is a great opportunity for students to showcase their talents and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Empowered with Meg Ryan

Dr. Rachel Owens shared an update regarding PCS's feature on *Empowered Hosted by Meg Ryan*. PCS has received a draft of the feature and the feature is expected to air on public television stations across the United States in April 2026.

Adjournment

Ms. Paluselli shared that the next Board meeting will take place on March 10, 2026 at PCS West.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.