



**PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – CENTRAL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
May 12, 2026
6:00 PM
HELD AT PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL – WEST AND VIA ZOOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Curtis Kossman*	Dan Lynch	Maria Paluselli
David Baker*	Dan Sponseller	Dr. Rachel Owens*
Dr. Jean Ferketish*	Sallie Richards	Vivi Besteman
Julie Shepard*		Lisa Augustin* (PPS)
Terry Smith*		Armetta Denk (Special Education Coordinator at PCS West)
Shiela Conway		Nick Strickland (PCS Parent)

*Via Zoom

Curtis Kossman convened the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 14, 2026 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Shiela Conway, the April 14, 2026 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Finance Report & Vendor Purchases

Finance Report

Maria Paluselli presented the financial report for April 2026. Ms. Paluselli noted a balance in the PCS Central general fund of \$1.3M, and a steady \$3.5M balance in the money market account.

The capital improvement fund has accrued interest and currently has a balance of \$5.1M. Ms. Paluselli highlighted a slight increase in the school district accounts receivable balance to \$210K.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Terry Smith, the financial report for April 2026 was unanimously approved.

Vendor Purchases

Ms. Paluselli presented the vendor purchases for April 2026, which were ordinary and routine.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Dr. Jean Ferketish, the vendor purchases for April 2026 were unanimously approved.

2026-2027 Budget

Ms. Paluselli reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 budget with the Board. The budget reflects approximately \$11.8M in revenue, based on anticipated enrollment of 336 students (and \$33.5K in average tuition reimbursements per district), and \$11M in expenses, with an overall fund balance of roughly \$900K. Curtis Kossman noted that salaries and benefits account for approximately 85% of total expenses.

Ms. Paluselli shared that the budget reflects the addition of Vice Principal and Guidance Counselor positions, with grant funding supporting a portion of the costs allocated to these roles given that they have been identified as areas of need for the student population. Ms. Paluselli reminded the Board that over 70% of students receive special education services and require counseling as part of their education plans.

The proposed budget incorporates a 3.5% salary increase for all staff, effective July 1, 2026, for 260-day employees, and upon return in August 2026 for 200-day employees. Mr. Kossman noted that staff compensation remains competitive, as reflected by the 94% staff retention rate last year. Healthcare costs were identified as a significant expense; however, Ms. Paluselli reported that strategies have been implemented to help manage those costs effectively.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Terry Smith, the 2026-2027 Budget for PCS Central was unanimously approved.

Operations/Facilities Updates

Flexible Instruction Day Plan

Maria Paluselli reviewed the proposed Flexible Instruction Day (FID) Plan for PCS Central with the Board. The FID Plan must be renewed every three years and is due on June 1, 2026 to PDE. The FID Plan creates procedures for remote instruction in the event of circumstances like snow days. Among other things, FID Plan details how the school will provide for remote instruction, communicate with families and address technology issues during remote learning days.

ACTION: Upon motion by Shiela Conway, seconded by Curtis Kossman, the 2026-2029 FID Plan for PCS Central was unanimously approved.

PCS Central Elevator Update

Ms. Paluselli shared that following a recent meeting with the City of Pittsburgh Planning Commission, it was determined that a sprinkler system will need to be installed in both the main school building and the Annex prior to project completion. It is expected that installation of the sprinkler system will increase total project costs by approximately \$200K. Curtis Kossman reminded the Board that the \$5.1M balance in the capital improvement fund can be applied to cover the increased project costs.

PCS Central A/C Update

Ms. Paluselli gave an update on the status of the A/C installation in the Annex of PCS Central. The school is still waiting on final parts for the project, which was initially targeted for completion in May.

Enrollment & Hiring Reports

Enrollment Report

The Board reviewed the enrollment report prepared by Ms. Paluselli. Ms. Paluselli shared that there are currently 311 students enrolled at PCS Central for the 2025-2026 school year. Maximum enrollment capacity for PCS Central is 336 students, leaving 25 available seats.

Ms. Paluselli also provided an open enrollment update. Ms. Paluselli reported that as of the date of the meeting, 280 students have indicated an intent to return for the 2026-2027 school year, together with 7 who are in the process of enrolling and 32 who are enrolled. Projected enrollment for 2026-2027 is currently 319 students.

Hiring Report

Maria Paluselli reviewed the monthly hiring report. There was one salaried new hire to report: Ashleigh Aston, Human Resources Administrative Assistant. In addition, there was one separation for the role of Cafeteria Assistant. There were no promotions or role changes.

ACTION: Upon motion by Shiela Conway, seconded by Curtis Kossman, the April Hiring Report was unanimously approved.

General Updates

Eighth Grade Graduation

Maria Paluselli shared that the Eighth Grade Graduation Ceremony will take place at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 5, 2026 at PCS Central. The event will feature several student speakers.

Adjournment

Ms. Paluselli shared that the next School Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, June 9, 2026 at PCS Central. There will not be a School Board meeting in July 2026. There will be a virtual Provident Education Foundation meeting on Tuesday, May 19, 2026.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.