



**PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER
SCHOOL**

February 9, 2021
6:00 – 7:55 PM
(Virtual)

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Dan Sponseller		Alan Shuckrow
Roland Gargani		Kathy Clark
Andy Patterson		LeShana McHenry
David Baker		Maria Paluselli
John Rushford		
Curtis Kossman		
Dr. Jean Ferketish		Mindy Bramer
Joseph DiMario		Rachel Owens
David Whitcomb		

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

Public Comment

A question was asked regarding status of vaccinations for teachers. Maria Paluselli reported in response that the administration was in discussions with the County but nothing was finalized yet.

Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. DiMario, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the Board’s regular monthly meeting for December 8, 2020 and Special Board meeting held January 6, 2021.

Report on Governance/Legislative Update

Mr. Shuckrow reported that the Governor has made two proposals for changes affecting charter schools, one of which could substantially reduce funding for charter school special education. The likelihood of passage of the proposed changes is uncertain but it is possible that we will know by June 30, 2021 whether the proposals will be adopted. Mr. Shuckrow will keep the Board apprised.

Mr. Shuckrow also circulated a proposed charter school resolution, executed in similar form by other charter schools, registering our School's views regarding the proposed funding cuts by the Governor. The Board members will review the resolution and the Board will consider whether to adopt the resolution in its present form, or as modified, at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Shuckrow also reported that his office will hold a board member training seminar for new Board members in the near future. He also reported the due dates for Board financial disclosure statements.

Separately, it was decided that Mr. Sponseller, as Secretary of the Board, would be the designated person on the School's website for emails from the public wishing to communicate their views to, or having question for, the Board.

Report on School Operations

Ms. Paluselli reported that the School returned to in-person education on January 25, 2021, that School staff has been impressive in adapting to the in-person program in the face of Covid 19, and that the reopening was proceeding well. She reported that approximately 75% to 80% of students returned in person.

At the request of Ms. Pauselli, LeShana MCHenry reported on the status and use of the 21st Century Grant to the School for afterschool and summer school activities, and a 21 page report on such activities that was provide to the Board.

Ms. Paluselli also presented a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the School and a local organization known as Urban Impact, which, if approved, would allow the organization to use the School gym for a host of beneficial free activities for the community, including tutoring and other activities. The Board discussed the proposed arrangement, and the fact that the MOU had been reviewed by legal counsel, and viewed the arrangement favorably.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. Sponseller, the Board unanimously approved the execution of the Memorandum of Understanding between the School and Urban Impact Memorandum presented by Ms. Paluselli, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

The Board also discussed the need to designate a School official as the designated person to e-sign documents on behalf of the School for federal programs.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. Kossman, the Board unanimously designating Ms. Paluselli as the designated person to e-sign documents on behalf of the School for federal programs.

Also, the Board reviewed the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Equity Plan for the School, including but not limited to its no-discrimination policies. Ms. Paluselli reported to the Board that she and her staff have regular meetings to evaluate and address equity and equality issues at the School.

Finally, the Board reviewed the current status of the school safety program with Ms. Paluselli. She reported that the School was preparing a standard proactive threat assessment as part of its safety program. She also presented a written report on the school's safety program, prepared by the School's safety officer, which she reviewed in detail. The report also indicated there would be some anticipated future costs for safety upgrades.

Report on School Operations

Ms. Paluselli provided a detailed list of vendor purchases for January 2021, which the Board reviewed and approved. She noted that the bulk of the costs pertained to professional development for education staff.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. Kossman, the Board unanimously approved the vendor purchases for January 2021, provided by Ms. Paluselli, copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

Report on Hiring

Ms. Paluselli reported on new hiring as reflected in Appendix A to the Agenda.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. Kossman, the Board unanimously approved the hiring reflected on Appendix A to the Agenda for this meeting.

Enrollment Report

Ms. Paluselli presented the current enrollment report which was attached as Appendix B to the Agenda.

Report on Finance and Facilities

Roland Gargani submitted the Treasurer's Report to the Board, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes. He also reported that the School's main accounting person will be leaving his current employer and starting his own firm, called J. Martin & Associates, which the School plans to retain to allow the continuation of competent accounting services to the School.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. DiMario, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report.

Mr. Kossman reported on anticipated substantial physical upgrades which will be up for consideration in the near future, including but not limited to roof repairs and other matters, amounting to potentially substantially in excess of \$2 million in expenditures. After discussion, the Board decided that Mr. Kossman and Mr. Patterson would comprise a committee to develop a plan with the School's architect for needed capital expenditures at the School, and that this matter would be further addressed by them at a meeting to be held with the architect currently scheduled for February 24, 2021.

Report on Philanthropy

The Board decided that in light of the pandemic the School will not have its usual annual fundraising gala this year, but will investigate possible formats and venues for next year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Date

Daniel J. Sponseller
Secretary of the Board