



**PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL  
(CORRECTED) MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER  
SCHOOL**

December 14, 2021  
6:00 – 8:20 PM

<b>BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT</b>	<b>OTHERS PRESENT</b>
Dr. Jean Ferketish		Maria Paluselli
Roland Gargani	Andy Patterson	Kathy Clark (Zoom)
Curtis Kossman	John Rushford	Rachel Owens
	David Baker	
	Joseph DiMario	
David Whitcomb		
Daniel Sponseller		

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

**Public Comment**

None.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the November, 2021 Board Meeting were circulated prior to the meeting, but due to an oversight were not voted on for approval. They will be voted upon for approval at the next meeting.

**Recognition of Service**

The Board specially acknowledged the incomparable contribution made to the School by Roland Gargani, who has long served as Treasurer, and whose resignation becomes effective December 31, 2021. The Board also specially recognized the tremendous contribution made by Roland's colleague, Robin Khorey.

## **Report on Business Services**

Mr. Gargani and Mr. Kossman acknowledged that in light of Mr. Gargani's resignation the School's business consultant, Joel Martin and Associates, is expected to assume a greater role in the financial operations of the School. At the invitation of the Board Joel Martin made a brief presentation regarding possible services. After discussion it was agreed that Mr. Gargani will review current operations with School personnel and then make suggestions as to the best way for the services he was providing to the School to be seamlessly picked up by Joel Martin and/or other School personnel, and the Board will consider this further at the next meeting.

It was also noted that in light of Mr. Gargani's resignation there would be a news authorized signatory on all School Accounts.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Dr. Whitcomb, and with Mr. Kossman abstaining, in light of the resignation of Mr. Gargani as Treasurer, the Board approved of a Resolution authorizing Mr. Kossman to be a signatory on all School Accounts, effective December 31, 2021, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

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

## **Report on School Operations**

Ms. Paluselli provided a brief update on the Health and Safety Plan, noting that there was a recent increase in positive Covid cases. In light of this, Ms. Paluselli asked for authorization for discretion to revise the School's health and safety procedures in the future, which the Board discussed at length, including extensive information from Dr. David Whitcomb regarding current information regarding the effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine and potential differences between the Delta and Omicron variant of Covid. Ms. Paluselli advised that she wished to establish a weekly informational dashboard, to follow the current CDC guidelines regarding treatment of those with positive cases or exposed to positive cases and required testing before returning to School, and to eliminate any distinction between grades regarding exceptions afforded to those having vaccines, and that she wished to reflect certain of these aspects in a revision to the School's Health and Safety Plan in the future. The Board discussed the foregoing at length.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. Sponseller, the Board unanimously authorized Ms. Paluselli to establish a weekly informational dashboard, to follow the current CDC guidelines regarding treatment of those with positive cases or exposed to positive cases and required testing before returning to School, and to eliminate any distinction between grades regarding exceptions afforded to those having vaccines, and to reflect these aspects in a revision to the School's Health and Safety Plan.

Ms. Paluselli also circulated an annual facilities report regarding the School prepared by Pittsburgh Public Schools. The School's architect will review the report and prepare a response, due on

January 2, 2022. She also advised that PPS representatives will be on site reviewing School operations and materials as part of PPS's annual monitoring in January 2022.

**Report on Hiring**

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

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Dr. Ferketish, 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 for November to the Board, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

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

Mr. Kossman, on his own initiative, stated that he believed that in light of the substantial obstacles faced by our teachers and staff in the last year, and their exemplary performance and demonstrated commitment to the School's mission, it would be appropriate to award a staff appreciation bonus of \$2,500, to teachers and staff. Mr. Gargani advised that the School budget could accommodate such a bonus. The Board discussed the foregoing and unanimously favored it.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. Sponseller, the Board unanimously approved the award of a staff appreciation bonus of \$2,500, to teachers and staff.

Ms. Paluselli also reported that the School's Annual Appeal, successfully raised approximately \$17,000 through recent mailing solicitations substantially aided by Rachel Owens.

**Special Events**

Ms. Paluselli reported on a Junior Board transition event scheduled for December 2, 2021.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel J. Sponseller  
Secretary of the Board