



**PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL  
MINUTES  
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER  
SCHOOL  
March 8, 2022  
6:00 – 8:00 PM**

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

\*Via Zoom

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

**Public Comment**

A School student, John Hines, spoke about the need and desirability of making masks optional at the School. The Board thanked him for his input.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Board deferred consideration of the minutes for the Board's February 8 meeting.

**Report on Governance**

Ms. Clark reminded the Board members that their annual statements of financial interest forms are due May 1, 2022.

**Report on School Operations**

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Dr. Whitcomb, the Board unanimously approved the vendor purchases for February, 2022, provided by Ms. Paluselli, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

Ms. Paluselli also presented a written Equity Plan for the School for the period 2021 – 2022.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. Kossman, the Board unanimously approved the written Equity Plan for the School for the period 2021 – 2022 provided by Ms. Paluselli, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

Ms. Paluselli then provided a brief Covid update and reported that the positive tests had continued to decline and that there was only 1 positive Covid test in March (1 staff member).

In light of the sharp decline in Covid in the Pittsburgh area and in the School, Ms. Paluselli proposed to update the School's Health and Safety Plan to make the wearing of masks optional and to provide that quarantining for 5 days would be optional for those who have come in close contact with a person who has tested positive for Covid. The Board discussed these changes at length, heard from Dr. David Whitcomb regarding the current science regarding the wearing of masks and his views in favor of the options proposed by Ms. Paluselli, and reacted favorably regarding the proposed changes, particularly in that they improved the effectiveness of teaching in the School.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Dr. Whitcomb, the Board approved Ms. Paluselli's proposal to update the School's Health and Safety Plan to make the wearing of masks optional and to provide that quarantining for 5 days would be optional for those who have come in close contact with a person who has tested positive for Covid, effective within the next few days, and that the foregoing, along with conforming changes, would be included in the School's written Health & Safety Plan.

Ms. Paluselli presented the proposed 22-23 School Calendar, which the board reviewed.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. Kossman, the Board unanimously approved the proposed 22-23 School Calendar, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

Ms. Paluselli also presented an outline of terms for a planned 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC prepared by Thomas Tours Travel to be scheduled in June 2022.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. DiMario, the Board unanimously approved the proposed outline of terms from Thomas Tours Travel for the planned 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Washington D.C., at a total cost of \$3900, with the first payment of \$500 due in March, with counsel instructed to prepare a full written contract for same to be executed by the School.

The School's IT department made a presentation regarding the possible development of a special website and clearinghouse for information about dyslexia and to provide related activities for students, their families and others interested in the subject. The Board was impressed with the concept and determined to give this further thought and consideration in the future.

Mr. Kossman proposed that the School consider establishing an esports program and team. He advised that data shows that esports can have a very salutary impact on STEM related learning for students and other salutary effects. Ms. Paluselli expressed an interest in meeting with persons who could provide more information on the subject and exploring it further.

### **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 Mr. Sponseller 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**

Mr. Kossman submitted the Treasurer's Report for February to the Board, a copy of which will be filed with these minutes.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Sponseller, seconded by Mr. Baker, the Board unanimously approved the Treasurer's Report for February, 2022.

Ms. Paluselli discussed the need for more parking spaces, and the results of requests for bid proposals to demolish the two unused garages on the School site and pave them for parking. The Board examined the economics of this proposal and found that it made strong economic sense.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. Sponseller, the Board unanimously approved the acceptance of the lowest bid for the garage demolitions and paving for approximately \$26,500.

Ms. Paluselli also discussed the need for substantial enhancement of the school's electrical system to allow for the addition of more room air conditioners and additional IT capabilities at the School. She advised that the staff was most impressed with the bid from Hanlon Electric to undertake the work for approximately \$58,600. Mr. Kossman advised that he had carefully reviewed the proposed work and that in his view this was a very cost-efficient means of improving the School's air conditioning system.

**ACTION:** Upon motion by Mr. Kossman, seconded by Mr. Sponseller, the Board unanimously approved the acceptance of the bid from the Hanlon Electric electric company to upgrade the School's electric system for approximately \$58,600.

**Report on Special Events**

Ms. Paluselli also reported on the availability of specially-priced tickets for Teacher Appreciation Day for a Penguins game on March 22, 2022, a special transition presentation by the Jr. Board to graduating students scheduled for May 13, 2022, a special School House Rock show featuring students scheduled for May 20 and 21, 2022, that the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade promotion ceremony is scheduled for June 5, 2022, and that a Taekwondo tournament is scheduled at the School for April 9, 2022.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

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Date

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Daniel J. Sponseller  
Secretary of the Board