



**PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL
MINUTES
OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROVIDENT CHARTER
SCHOOL
August 13, 2024
6:00 PM
HELD AT PROVIDENT CHARTER SCHOOL AND VIA ZOOM**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT	BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT	OTHERS PRESENT
Terry Smith	Dan Sponseller	Maria Paluselli
Dr. Jean Ferketish		Alan Shuckrow
Curtis Kossman		Kathryn Clark
David Baker		Darlene Brown
Dan Lynch		Rachel Owens
Sheila Conway		Luke Weismantle
Mike Brady		Connie Joseph
		Sallie Richards

Curtis Kossman convened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Public Comment

Sallie Richards disseminated information about the parent organization and briefly discussed some of their activities. The Board thanked Ms. Richards for her efforts and asked that she pass along to the group its gratitude for their work.

Approval of Minutes

The meeting minutes of the June 11, 2024 meeting were reviewed by the Board.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by David Baker, the June 11, 2024 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Matters of Note

Charter School Law Amendments

Alan Shuckrow updated the Board that in the beginning of July there were some significant amendments to the Charter School Law that will have an impact on Provident. One change is that the board will need to contain a parent of a Provident student as of July, 2025. It was discussed that Sallie Richards, who regularly attends Board meetings, would be an excellent candidate. Ms. Richards stated that she would discuss the matter with the parent group and let the Board know if she can accept an appointment.

Another change will require the appointment of an audit committee with some new duties as set forth in the legislation. No longer will charter schools be able to advertise that they are “tuition free.” Finally, there will be resolutions regarding administrator compensation per the Federation Agreement that will come forward for consideration at an upcoming meeting.

Review of By Laws

Mr. Shuckrow suggested that the Board form a small group to work with him and Maria Paluselli to update the By Laws which have not been updated/amended.

Charter Renewal

Maria Paluselli reminded the Board that Provident is up for its second renewal by PPS next June and that we will soon need to make the formal request to be renewed. The Board discussed this matter and also raised whether Provident should request to add first grade as an amendment to the charter which will make it consistent with West’s grade levels.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Jean Ferketish, the board voted unanimously to seek renewal and to request to add first grade to the charter.

Enrollment Report

Ms. Paluselli presented the enrollment report. She drew the Board’s attention to a list of students who had transferred out of PCS and the reasons. The most cited reasons were: “mission complete”, transportation and “moved”. The Board engaged in significant discussion on this topic. There were more students transferring out than anticipated and so this bears watching.

Hiring/Employment Report

The most significant action on the report was a listing of separations necessitated by Provident not receiving the 21st Century Grant this cycle. The Board asked about the arrangements for after school activities in lieu of the program formerly funded by 21st Century. Ms. Paluselli stated that the students are using the Sarah Heinz House which is in close proximity.

David Baker commented on recent amendments to the Fair Labor Standards Act and asked the administration to do a review to assure compliance.

ACTION: Upon motion by Curtis Kossman, seconded by Mike Bradey, the enrollment report and the hiring report for June and July, 2024 were unanimously approved.

Selection of Auditor

Ms. Paluselli presented three proposals to the Board for the selection of an auditor for the next three (3) years. The audits and 990's are included for Central, West and the Foundation. The proposals were from Hosack Specht, Mark Turnley, CPA and Deluzio, LLC. The Board thanked Ms. Paluselli for securing proposals from three qualified firms. All three had aspects of their proposals that were favorable. Darlene Brown indicated that she favored the proposal from Hosack Specht due to their extensive experience with charter schools. Mr. Shuckrow pointed out that Propel is a client of Hosack Specht and they, like Provident, have multiple schools and a foundation.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mike Brady, seconded by Curtis Kossman, the Board voted to accept the proposal by Hosack Specht for auditing services for the next three years.

Insurance Renewal

Ms. Paluselli informed the Board that Dan Sponseller had worked with the insurance broker and helped save money by combining some aspects of the policies for Central and West.

Finance Report/Vendor Payments

Mike Brady, Treasurer, presented both the vendor payments for June and July and the financial reports for the same period. Mr. Brady commented that as directed at the last meeting, a money market account with a higher interest rate had been established. All vendor payments and the financial statements are in order.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mike Brady, seconded by David Baker, the vendor purchases for June and July, 2024 were unanimously approved.

ACTION: Upon motion by Mike Brady, seconded by David Baker, the finance report as of June 30, 2024 and July 31, 2024 was unanimously approved.

Family Surveys

Ms. Paluselli shared the results which were very positive. One recent Facebook post in particular was shared and is very moving about a student who make tremendous progress at Provident and who is now able to go back to the home district and succeed.

Alumni Picnic

Rachel Ownes shared that on July 31 the 1st alumni picnic was held. There were about 60 former students and over 130 people in total in attendance. This was a big success and Provident plans to do this again and make it a regular event.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Date

Alan T. Shuckrow
Assistant Secretary of the Board