

**MEETING MINUTES
OF
CATALYST ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
March 2, 2021**

Held Both in Person at Catalyst Academy Charter School and Virtually Via Zoom

Trustee Attendees: Rachel Amankulor, Carey Harris, Erin Stiling, George Childs, Carl Cooper, Tom Walenchok, Gretchen Generett, Bob Jones, Allison McCarthy

Other Attendees: Brian Smith, Darren Gray, Alan Shuckrow (Strassburger McKenna Gutnick & Gefsky), Dr. Carrie Potter-Murray, Laura Lerand, Lisa Augustine (PPS)

Rachel Amankulor called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Public Comment--None

Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2021 regular meeting. Carl Cooper *made a motion to approve the minutes for January 5, 2021, seconded by George Childs and carried unanimously.*

Financial Update. The forecast is 42 now days of cash at the end of the fiscal year. Brian reviewed the current financial picture.

Bills and Vendors and payments. Brian presented the bills to be paid. *George Childs made a motion to approve bills and payments to vendors for the month, seconded by moved Erin Stiling and carried unanimously.*

Creation of Academic Committee. Rachel recommended that an academic committee be created and that she, Gretchen, Allison and Erin will comprise this committee. It will help the board set academic goals and provide support to the Administration. *Carey Harris made a motion to create the Academic Committee and to designate its initial members as recommended by Rachel, seconded by Tom Walenchok and carried unanimously.*

Rachel announced that the Academic Committee's first official meeting will be March 15 and that the Committee will meet monthly and report to the full Board.

School Calendar. Brian presented the 2020-2021 school calendar. He reviewed the highlights. Motion by George and Gretchen second and approved calendar

E-grant resolution for Title I. Brian reviewed a needed resolution for Title I purposes authorizing e-grant signatures. *George Childs made a motion to approve the E-Grant Resolution for Title I, seconded by Erin Stiling and carried unanimously.*

PA Charter Coalition Resolution. Brian and Alan explained that the Charter Coalition is encouraging charter schools to pass resolution opposing Governor Wolf's proposed funding cuts

for charter schools. This is a counter measure to school districts that are passing resolutions supporting cuts in funding to charter schools. *George Childs made a motion to approve the Charter Coalition's resolution, seconded by Carey Harris and carried unanimously.*

At this time Gretchen Generett departed.

Attendance Update. Attendance has dipped a bit in February. Brian believes that the weather in February and several cancellations had an impact on this. The first two days of March have seen an uptick in attendance.

Enrollment/Marketing. We have been having more robust teacher conferences and some have been able to be in person lately. We believe that over 90% of our students will return next year. We have 57 new applications. Our lottery is March 15. We had a cultivation event recently and have another one on March 20. Brian shared a Catalyst promo video. It will be on the website and social media. The Board complimented the video as capturing the essence of Catalyst.

Human Resources update. Brian indicated that there have not been any recent changes in staff. We are in process for recruiting for next year.

MAP Testing. Darren presented the MAP results for the scholars from Fall and Winter. Clearly, this year has been challenging for all scholars and families due to COVID restrictions. Scholars have lost significant instructional time due to the restrictions. MAP tests in the middle of the year assume that normal learning has taken place during the first part of the year which obviously is not the case this year. Darren also explained the School's plan to improve achievement and a call to action re same. There was significant discussion from the Board on this topic all agreeing that a renewed focus on reading and math are critical to make up the deficits for our scholars and that the strategies outlined by the administration are appropriate.

Brian invited board members and Lisa Augustine from PPS to visit the school.

Public Comment—none

Adjourned at 7:10.