



**Minutes of the PUBLIC MEETING of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GREENWOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
468 Domino Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19128
March 21, 2019 7:30 PM**

This meeting was duly advertised in accordance with the Pennsylvania Sunshine Law in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

- 1. At 7:31 PM, the meeting, held in the school cafeteria, was called to order** by Chelsea Badeau, Board Chair and followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and of Green Wood's Mission Statement. It was also announced that the meeting was also being streamed via Facebook Live and thus recorded on Green Woods Charter School's Facebook page for future viewing; subject to the control of Facebook's video policies.
- 2. Roll Call.** J. Stacey, counsel, took roll call. Trustees in attendance: Chelsea Badeau, Richard Chapkis, Heather Cowley, Kristin Haskins Simms, and Meg Perillo. Deena Benner was absent. A quorum was present.
- 3. Announcement of Executive Session**
 - a. Board Chair announces that an executive session was held prior to the start of the meeting in order for the Board to consult with administration regarding personnel and student concerns, and in order for the Board to consult with its attorney to receive legal advice regarding personnel and special education matters.
 - b. Board Chair announces that an Executive Session will be held immediately following this board meeting and prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting – May 16, 2018.
- 4. Changes to Agenda**
 - a. There were no changes to the agenda.
- 5. Approval of Minutes**

Action. To approve the minutes of the public meeting of February 21, 2019 as presented to the Board. Motion made by R. Chapkis and seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
- 6. Updates and Reports**
 - a. *Information.* Board Chair Report from Chelsea Badeau. Happy World Down Syndrome Day. 8th grade class has almost all finalized high school selections; students will be



- heading to Science Leadership Academy, G.W. Carver, CAPA, Central and more. The Board is proud of our soon to be graduates. A contracted crossing guard was hired. The school team is appealing the Philadelphia Streets Department's denial of a crosswalk at our driveway and additionally has requested repainting of the crosswalk lines at Domino and Ridge. Upcoming on March 27 CPR training for a group of staff. Chelsea attended Charter School Office event & DiverseBoards event. Becca Smith will be joining us on the Board. Tonight, we vote on the CEO Contract for Debi Durso.
- b. *Information & School Report.* from Stephani Finnin, Principal. Mural Arts Program - will be hung next week. Assembly SK8 for life was today and successful. PSSA afterschool prep program underway and going well. Ms. Lashin is back from maternity leave. Sean Wimby will be moving to 4th grade. Thursday, May 16, Blood Drive before board meeting. Miles for Marlee will be held on April 12, goal is try to top last year's \$10,000. Book Fair is May 9-16. Request to parents to complete the surveys the Philadelphia School District and GWCS have sent out.
 - c. *Information.* PTA Report from PTA Vice President, Michele Demski. Nominations for executive committee are sought; vote is held at the May 2nd PTA meeting. Silent Auction still needs a Chairperson – have 5+ members with experience but need chair. PTA is paying for 2 bus trips per grade for field trips, reminder to teachers to use funds. In April or May, remaining PTA funds will be voted on – they will be working with the Board on ideas. Dance was a success thanks to Jess Sexton & Ms. Mosberger. Designer Bag Bingo coming up soon at end of April. Earned 28 free tickets and earned over \$1000 from Hershey. Book fair need volunteers, Family night the 16th. Eco Committee Cleanup, toad crossing in April. Collecting items for Shamus Keough's capstone project soon.
 - d. *Information.* Board Governance Report from Richard Chapkis. Adding a new board member, Becca Smith. Becca comes with human resources experience and is a native Philadelphian, having attended Philadelphia Public schools.
 - e. *Information.* Finance Report from Omninvest and Meg Perillo. Month of February were over budget, but within budget for the entire year, with potential capital funds to be considered. Metrics for both school district and the bond are in good. Erate funding allows us to reduce the costs by up to 40% for internet; recommended Comcast as the provider. Erate funding for technology for the access points and firewall (equipment), recommending CSRI. Omninvest has worked with CSRI who has been easy to work with.
 - f. *Information.* Report from Counsel, J. Stacey. Legislative update: 4 or 5 education bills possible in the PA Senate involving changes for charter schools who want to make amendments, application to establish a new charter school, student enrollment and getting records from "sending districts"; allowing charter school facilities for right of first refusal for unused or unpurchased school district buildings; ethical charter operations



that impose ethics more on charter school management companies and management of funds; codifying a dual enrollment program (college credit earnable in HS).

- g. *Information.* Outdoor Space Planning Report from Heather Cowley. Held first meeting to discuss various ideas and outline the plans. Some areas in need of hardscaping were identified to eliminate some mud and water ponding and a request will be send to the Philadelphia Water Department once their inspection report for the stormwater permit is received by the school. The plans for the raised garden beds were discussed and the upcoming (5/4) Comcast Cares Day will allow for the construction of the beds; volunteers will be needed.

Action. To approve the reports in 8(a)-8(g) above, as stated at the meeting and/or as presented to the Board. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by R. Chapkis.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

7. Other Matters/New Business

- a. *Action.* To approve the addition of individuals to the respective committees identified in the attached document presented by the Governance Committee. Discussion: Adding parents, staff and community members to the current committees. Motion made by R. Chapkis and seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- b. *Action.* To approve the employment contract with Debra Durso for the position of CEO, for a term of three (3) years beginning July 1, 2019, as presented to the Board, and to authorize the Board Chair to execute and deliver the contract. Human Resources consultant, M. Farley gave an overview of the CEO search process. It included screening 30 qualified candidates, selecting 5 to bring to the search committee (which consisted of 3 staff, 2 admin, 3 board members/parents and M. Farley), then two were brought in for demonstrations and board interviews. An offer was then made to the top candidate. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by H. Cowley.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- c. *Action.* To approve the new hires and stipends as indicated in the attachment presented to the Board. Discussion: None. Motion made by H. Cowley and seconded by K. Haskins-Simms.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.



- d. *Action.* To approve e-rates funded contract with Comcast for Internet Service as presented by the Finance Committee. Discussion occurred during Finance Committee report. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- e. *Action.* To approve e-rates funded contract with [CSRI/MTG/Springboard] for Access Points and Firewall as presented by the Finance Committee. Discussion occurred during Finance Committee report. Motion made by R. Chapkis and seconded by H. Cowley.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- f. *Action.* To approve the minor changes to the 2018-19 school calendar as presented to the board. Discussion: traditionally Green Woods is closed on the Friday before Memorial Day, but that was overlooked in the development of the school calendar. Thus, this change is to close school May 24 and move the Art & Music showcase a day earlier. Motion made by M. Perillo and seconded by R. Chapkis.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- g. *Action.* To approve the revised policy regarding Child Abuse Reporting as presented to the board by the Governance Committee. Discussion: the previous policy was missing some language required and so adjustments have been made to ensure full compliance with applicable laws. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by R. Chapkis.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- h. *Action.* To ratify the contract with In-Line Security for crossing guard and related services. Discussion: none. Motion made by H. Cowley and seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- i. *Action.* To elect the Becca Smith to the Green Woods Charter School Board of Trustees. Discussion: none. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by H. Cowley.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- j. [*Reserved*] Trustee Cowley motioned to edit the minutes for 9/18, 10/18, 11/18, 12/18, and 1/19 to reflect the location of the meeting. Discussion: this was at the request of the School District of Philadelphia. Motion made by M. Perillo and seconded by R. Chapkis.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.



8. Public Comment

- a. No persons registered to speak.

9. Installation of New Trustee

- a. Counsel, J. Stacey to administer the oath of office to newly elected Board of Trustees member Becca Smith.

10. Adjournment

- a. *Action.* To adjourn the meeting at 8:25, motioned by H Cowley and seconded by K. Haskins-Simms.

Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.



GWCS Committee Members for Approval, 3-21-2019

Governance Committee: Becca Smith, George Merrill

Development and Community Engagement: Christine Spencer

Outdoor Space Planning: Rachel Vahey, Jennifer Wilson, Anne Politz, Emme Castiglione Dodd, Shannon Cronin, Christine Walinski, Stacy Serwinski, Ruth Taylor