



**Minutes from the PUBLIC MEETING of the  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
GREENWOODS CHARTER SCHOOL  
468 Domino Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19128  
August 16, 2018 7:30 PM**

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

- 1. At 7:37 PM, the meeting, held in the school's 3<sup>rd</sup> floor media center, was called to order by Board Chair Debi Durso.**
- 2. Roll Call.** The Board Chair took roll call. Trustees in attendance: Debi Durso, Chelsea Badeau, Heather Cowley, Meg Perillo. Trustee present via phone: Deena Benner.
- 3. Announcement of Executive Sessions**
  - a. Board Chair announced that an Executive Session was held prior to the start of the meeting in order for the Board to consult with the administration regarding filling vacancies in open positions, and in order for the Board to discuss confidential labor and employment matters and special education matters.
  - b. Board Chair announced that an Executive Session will be held prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.
- 4. Public Comment**
  - a. There were no public comments.
- 5. Changes to Agenda**
  - a. There were no changes to the agenda.
- 6. Approval of Minutes**
  - a. *Action.* To approve the minutes of the public meeting of June 28, 2018 as presented to the Board. Motion made by M. Perillo and seconded by C. Badeau.  
  
**Vote: 5 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.**
- 7. Updates and Reports**

- a. *Information.* Board Chair Report from Debi Durso. Announcement of her submission of resignation effective at the end of the meeting. Recap of parent meetings over the summer regarding the decision to not seek a CEO, but rather examine the best structure for GWCS.
- b. *Information.* School Report from Stephani Finnin, Principal. School will be opening as planned, parents will note many staff moved positions but at their request.
- c. *Information.* PTA report from Michelle Demski, PTA Vice President. Clothing swaps, playground meetups happened over summer, Boo Hoo breakfast for Kindergarten parents on 9-12 and back-to-school bring your own picnic on 9-15. Announced that date for annual Silent Auction is December 1, 2018 and that calendars of student art are for sale \$15 to support art and music programming.
- d. *Information.* Board Governance report from Heather Cowley. New trustees to be nominated, additional trustees and future committee members are sought.
- e. *Information.* Finance Report from Leigh Ann Bonck of Omnivest and Meg Perillo. No issues; all documents to be posted online once approved by Board.
- f. *Action.* To approve the reports in 8(a)-8(f) above, as stated at the meeting and/or as presented to the Board. Motion made by M. Perillo and seconded by C. Badeau.

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

## 8. Other Matters/New Business

- a. *Action.* To assign and approve Stephani Finnin as the school leader, point of contact, or authorized representative of Green Woods Charter school for the purposes of filing official reports and approving submissions to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, the school District of Philadelphia, BNY Mellon, and another other government agency or lender that may require that such a person be authorized by resolution of the GWCS Board.

Discussion: Clarification request - BNY Mellon holds the Bond for GWCS.

Motion: made by C. Badeau and seconded by H. Cowley.

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

- b. *Action.* To adopt the GWCS Student-Parent Handbook for the 2018-2019 School Year. Discussion: Key changes include reorganization and language, clarification of discipline and inclusiveness elements and inclusion of grievance policy. The document was reviewed by Counsel.

Motion: made by H. Cowley and seconded by C. Badeau.

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

- c. *Action.* To adopt Houghton Mifflin Harcourt’s Journeys as the English Language Arts curriculum for kindergarten – 5<sup>th</sup> and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt’s Collections as the English Language Arts curriculum for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Discussion: Trustees asked S. Finnin if the curriculum was flexible enough for current favorites of staff and students to continue, for Green STEM to be covered and if novels were still a part of the program. Reply: yes. Clarification: yes, there will be an online program for parent access and staff will be provided professional development.

Motion: made by H. Cowley and seconded by M. Perillo.

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

- d. *Action.* To elect the following individuals to the Green Woods Charter School Board of Trustees:

Kristin Haskins-Simms

Tim Sager

Richard Chapkis

Discussion: Biographies were provided and R. Chapkis and K. Haskins-Simms were introduced from the audience.

Motion: made by C. Badeau and seconded by H. Cowley.

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

- e. *Action.* To elect the following individuals to the following officer positions, effective at the close of the meeting until the next Annual Meeting or until a successor shall be duly elected and shall qualify:

President/Chair – Chelsea Badeau

Treasurer – Meg Perillo

Secretary – Heather Cowley

Discussion: None

Motion: made by D. Benner and seconded by M. Perillo.

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

- f. *Action.* To accept the resignation of Debi Durso as Board Chair, effective at the close of the meeting.

Discussion: Trustees thanked D. Durso for her willingness to step into the role of Chair in March, her offer of time and knowledge to guide former CEO Mill and the rest of the administration through the end of last school year and preparing staff and administration for the coming school year. Her leadership was appreciated.

Motion: made by M. Perillo and seconded by D. Benner.

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

**9. Adjournment**

- a. *Action.* To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by M. Perillo and seconded by C. Badeau.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

## ATTACHMENT 8d

### **Tim Sager**

After a 20-year career in marketing, primarily with Campbell Soup Company and Penn Mutual Life Insurance, Tim Sager went back to Arcadia University's graduate school and obtained two master's degrees; the first in secondary math education and the second in education leadership. After teaching for many years, he led a group interested in starting charter schools in the North Penn and Upper Darby School Districts. While ultimately unsuccessful, Tim developed a keen understanding of charter school law in Pennsylvania and all aspects of charter school management including budgeting.

In 2014, Tim joined the board of Summer Camps at College Settlement in Horsham, which provides camping experiences for children in the Philadelphia area, regardless of their economic circumstances. He became President of the Board in 2015, a position he continues to hold today. During his tenure as President, the Board has revised the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws, reduced the annual draw down from the endowment withdrawals from 6% to 4.8%, maintained staffing levels recommended by the American Camping Association, built a new multi-purpose camp building, increased donations significantly and are enrolled to capacity each summer.

Tim received his undergraduate degree from Williams College in Massachusetts. He and his wife have three children. Their eldest is an industrial designer in San Francisco and their middle daughter is a member of the United States National Rowing team and will be competing in the World Championships in Bulgaria in September. Their youngest daughter is a senior in High School and will be applying to Engineering Schools. The Sagers are 20-year residents of nearby Erdenheim.

### **Richard Chapkis**

Richard Chapkis is a Senior Deputy General Counsel for Comcast. Prior to working at Comcast, he was the Vice President & General Counsel of Verizon New Jersey. He has expertise in communications issues (telecommunications, cable, and Internet); litigating regulatory and other issues before administrative agencies as well as state and federal courts; spearheading key legislative initiatives; ensuring compliance with corporate policies and applicable laws; and working collaboratively with management to develop and implement strategies for advancing business interests. He and his family have lived all around the country, including Los Angeles, Tampa, Mendham (NJ), and Haverford (PA). He has completed an Ironman triathlon and is interested in screenwriting. He currently lives in Haverford with his wife Lisa, his neurotic bulldog, Jeremiah, and his loyal French mastiff, Augie. He is the father of two adult daughters, Natalie and Corinne, and the proud grandfather of Grayson and Caitlin.

### **Kristin Kaskins-Simms**

Kristin Haskins-Simms is Principal of Krys Design and Manufacturing LLC (KDM), a boutique clothing manufacturer assisting emerging designers and entrepreneurs with product development and small production. She also had her own line called Krysi, a lifestyle brand for career oriented, independent women. Kristin received her BA in English and French from University of Pennsylvania ('93) and her MFA in graphic design from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in 2000. Even though she eventually transitioned to fashion, she has always been an entrepreneur, small business owner and teacher. She was a visiting assistant professor at UCONN and has taught as adjunct at many local colleges and universities.