



**Minutes of the PUBLIC MEETING of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GREENWOODS CHARTER SCHOOL
468 Domino Lane, Philadelphia, PA 19128
December 20, 2018 7:30 PM**

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

1. **At 7:38 PM, the meeting was called to order by Chelsea Badeau and followed by a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and of Green Wood’s Mission Statement.**
2. **Roll Call** J. Stacey, counsel, took roll call. Trustees in attendance: Chelsea Badeau, Deena Benner, Heather Cowley, Kristin Haskins-Simms, Meg Perillo and Richard Chapkis. A quorum was present.
3. **Announcement of Executive Sessions**
 - a. The Board Chair announced that an executive session was held prior to the start of the meeting in order for the Board to consult with administration regarding filling vacancies in open positions, and in order for the Board to consult with its attorney to receive legal advice regarding labor and employment matters, special education matters, and other legal issues related to the school programming.
 - b. The Board Chair announced that an Executive Session will be held prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting – January 17, 2019.
4. **Changes to Agenda**
 - a. There were no changes to the agenda other than noting that the printed agenda had the date for the next Board meeting in 3.b. as 2018.
5. **Installation of New Trustee.**
 - a. Counsel, J. Stacey administered the oath of office to Board of Trustee member Richard Chapkis who was elected at the annual meeting on August 16, 2018.
6. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. *Action.* To approve the minutes of the public meeting of October 18, 2018 as presented to the Board. There was no discussion. Motion made by D. Benner and seconded by R. Chapkis.
Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.
7. **Updates and Reports**



- a. *Information.* Board Chair Report from Chelsea Badeau. The CEO search is underway, interviews are ongoing. Debi Durso resigned from Board service, which was accepted with thanks by the entire Board. Due to administration turnover, the No Place For Hate program is to be reexamined for next year, depending upon whether GWCS would be accepted for the program and administration's decision.
- b. *Information & School Report* from Stephani Finnin, Principal. Yule log, held the night before was a success for both the performers and attendees. A PSSA math after school program is beginning mid-January for 4-8 grade students who scored Basic or Below Basic on last year's PSSAs. A Mural Arts Program project will be underway thanks to the work of art teacher Ms. Mosbrugger. 7th grade science fair was a success and winners move on to the Carver Science Fair. Applications for admission are open via Apply Philly Charter with a high number of applications.
- c. *Information.* PTA report from Jennifer McClarren. They are still looking for volunteers to be classroom communicators on behalf of the PTA. Silent Auction was December 1 and was a success, income was lower than in past due to lack of sponsors but still raises significantly more than sales of wrapping paper.
- d. *Information.* Board Governance report from R. Chapkis. The committee is still seeking both potential Board members and committee members for the Advisory Committees. In addition, work is underway reviewing school policies.
- e. *Information.* Finance Report from Omnivest and Meg Perrillo. In October, the enrollment "true up" for the beginning enrollment was be done by the Philadelphia School District. Finances are as expected now that that has been completed and still on track.
- f. *Information.* Report from Counsel, Jeff Stacey. There is still essentially no movement on charter renewal conditions for about 50 Charters in Philadelphia under the new staff at the Charter School Office or the new Philadelphia School District Board.
- g. *Information.* Report on Outdoor Space Planning from Heather Cowley. Property review is complete and now working with the Philadelphia Water Department to understand restrictions about space usage under stormwater rules and permit. There will be a Committee meeting in January, if interested email the board email address.
- h. *Action.* To approve the reports in 8(a)-8(g) above, as stated at the meeting and/or as presented to the Board.

Discussion: none. Motion made by H. Cowley and seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

8. Other Matters/New Business



- a. *Action.* To approve the Independent Audit for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 as presented by BBD, LLP. Discussion: The Audit had no significant findings and the school finances were found to be in order. There were no questions. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

- b. *Action.* To approve the new hire, staff promotions and stipends as indicated in the attachment presented to the Board. Discussion: Vacancies that have been filled in the fall were identified as attached to these minutes. Stipend positions for staff were reviewed. Motion made by H Cowley, seconded by D. Benner.

Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried

- c. *Action.* To approve the creation of the Advisory Committee “Outdoor Space Planning.” Discussion: committee has already been working, this formalizes it. Motion made by R. Chapkis, seconded by M. Perillo.

Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried

- d. *Action.* To approve the employee handbook 2018-2019. Discussion: only major changes were to make the dress code more inclusive and to update some reporting options for staff for certain concerns and for safety related issues to the School Safety and Security Coordinator – a designated staff member required under PA Act 44. Motion made by K. Haskins-Simms and seconded by R. Chapkis.

Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried

- e. *Action.* To ratify the steps taken by the school administration with respect to the Olweus program and the No Place for Hate program, as set forth in a letter from the administration to the GWCS community dated December 19, 2018. Motion made by D. Benner and seconded by K. Haskins-Simms.

Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

9. Public Comment

- a. Two individuals registered for public comment: Timothy Grier and Timothy Durso.
- Mr. Grier spoke of his personal concerns around how the No Place for Hate Program was introduced and demanded the resignation of all Board Members except for Mr. Chapkis, and demanded the removal of school administrators.
 - Mr. Durso spoke about his concerns that one individual was abusive towards a number of school community members rather than to find common ground



and a solution to a concern and thus too much time was spent by the community dealing with the abusive behavior.

10. Adjournment

a. Action. To adjourn the meeting. Motion made by D. Benner and seconded by K. Haskins-Simms. **Vote: 6 in favor, none opposed. Motion carried, meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.**