

Board Meeting Minutes

Organization: Pride Academy Charter School Board Meeting
President: Mr. Mitchell
Time: 6:03 pm
Place: Virtual Platform
Date: August 25, 2021
Minute Taker: Ms. Rose Mary Dumenigo
Board Members Present: Mr. Moore, Mr. Mitchell, Mrs. Taylor

Others Present: Dr. Jones, Ms. Dumenigo, Mrs. Thomas
Absent: Mrs. Spence, Dr. Morgan-Black

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

Next Board Meeting: Wed. September 22, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm and Roll Call was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Tabled

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PUBLICATIONS: Newark NJ Star Ledger Newspaper, NJ.com, & School website

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE BOARD MEETING:

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the agenda for the August 25, 2021 meeting - Attachment 1

RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES:

Resolution to accept March 24, 2021 Regular Board meeting minutes - Attachment 2

Resolution to accept June 2, 2021 Emergency Board meeting minutes– Attachment 3

Resolution to accept June 28, 2021 Emergency Board meeting minutes-Attachment 4

Resolution to accept July 16, 2021 Emergency Board meeting minutes -Attachment 5

- Amendments: Two sets of minutes have the acceptance of resignations of Mrs. Nadine Cauthen and Ms. Lora Lobello. Corrections should be made.

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the minutes for the March 24, June 2, June 28, July 16 of 2021 meeting, with the amendments identified above – Attachments 2, 3, 4, 5

RESOLUTIONS

Financial Report presented by Dr. Charlene Jones,

- Dr. Jones shared that she has been working with our school auditor to ensure that the schools financial records are in good standing.
- The Board Secretary we are in good standing no overdrawn
- Finding issues that are being resolved
- Accept ARP-IDEA grant, which will be used to cover salaries for Special Education staff.
- Compliance to do a public bid for our custodial service with the addition of a part-time custodian. Our school attorney has approved the bid to ensure that we have met all the requirements of a public bid.

F1. Resolution to Accept Payroll Expense for the current month(s) through July 2021 - Attachment F1

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept Payroll Expense for the current month(s) through July 2021.

F2. Resolution to Accept the Bills List for the current months(s) July 2021 - August 25, 2021- Attachment F2

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the Bills List for the current month(s) through August 25, 2021.

F3. FICA Reimbursement Report through July 2021 - Attachment F3

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the FICA Reimbursement Report through July 2021.

F4. Approve and accept the submission of ARP-IDEA grant for 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$17,160 - Attachment F4

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve and accept the submission of ARP-IDEA grant for 2021-2022 school year in the amount of \$17,160.

F5. Approve the change in Business Entity Registered Agent to Charlene Jones, with New Jersey Division of Treasury for Pride Academy Charter School - Attachment F5

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the change in Business Entity Registered Agent to Charlene Jones, with the New Jersey Division of Treasury of Pride Academy Charter School.

F6. Board Secretary Financial Report Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:23A-16.1 0 (c)3, certify that as of July 31, no major budgetary line-item account expenditure exceeds the amount appropriated by the district Boards of Education.

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the Board Secretary's Financial Report.

F7. Approval to Advertise for Bid for Day Custodial and Maintenance Services All advertisements for bids shall be published in an official newspaper sufficiently in advance of the bid date to promote competitive bidding, but in no event less than ten (10) days prior to the bid date pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-21 (a). Competitive Contracting proposals require a minimum of twenty (20) days prior to the proposal opening pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-4.5 (a). This resolution to approve the advertisement for bid starting August 26, 2021 for 20 days. The bid opening date will be advertised. - Attachment F7

PRINCIPALS REPORT presented by Mrs. Thomas

- The focus has been reopening, which has been a great task to rethink all aspects of our school
- Teachers & staff returned on Tuesday for the first time since March 2020.
- Teachers have been packing up things to de-clutter rooms to allow for social distancing.
- Dr. Jones has done an excellent job to support all the preparations.
- We must also prepare for a hybrid setting in the event that students or teachers cannot be present due to quarantine or sickness.
- We are providing on-site COVID testing on a weekly basis for all staff and any students who are pre-registered by their parents.
- We are also preparing to provide loaner laptops for scholars can have at home in the event that we need to make a quick switch to hybrid or remote.
- We are also working to present parents` with information about the safety measures that have been put in place, as well as providing tours for those parents that request it.
- Mr. Moore asked for clarification about what hybrid instruction would work. Mrs. Thomas shared that it would be learning that scholars who are not sick but are requiring to quarantine can do remotely. It can also be used during a time when a teacher must quarantine who can provide instruction from home.
- Mr. Moore asked about how the school would determine what students and/or teachers would need to quarantine. Mrs. Thomas shared about how and electronic screening form is provided on a daily basis. If a student does show

signs of illness, we will have a quarantine room in the school. We are also hopefully adding a second nurse to our staff. We are given guidelines to help us determine who should be quarantined and we will also seek guidance from our nurse and trained safety officer, Mr. Ofstad. As a school, we will be airing on the side of caution and add as many safety measures as possible.

- Mr. Moore asked about how we are serving lunch. Mrs. Thomas shared that we will not be able to serve students safely in classroom, therefore we have decided to serve lunch in the cafeteria. At one time we will have 75 students in that room. We will be opening windows, provide air-conditioning and ventilation, as well as using our air-purifier system. We plan to have the East Orange Health Director to come to the building to view what we have prepared and make recommendations. Recess is also important for our scholar's social-emotional and mental health. We will provide opportunities for students to have outdoor space, as well as the Great Room which is ventilated and has air purifiers.
- Mr. Moore asked if Imani Baptist had any possible spaces. Ms. Dumenigo shared that the church has limited available space, as well as the challenges of teachers having to travel from the school to the convent building.
- Mr. Moore also shared that his children's school provides a tent for outdoor lunch. Mrs. Thomas shared that one was purchased but was not sturdy. Mrs. Thomas shared that she would look into again.
- Mrs. Taylor asked if the trailers that we once had were still available. Mrs. Thomas shared that they were no longer available, nor the space since that is where the wing currently is. Also, trailers would require extra wiring for electricity, phones, and internet, as well as an H/VAC system
- Mrs. Taylor asked about an A/B type schedule, we shared how we do not want to limit instruction at a time where we are trying to make up for learning loss.
- Mrs. Taylor asked about how we are providing hand sanitizers, no touch soap and hand driers, extra masks available, fountains converted to refill bottles. All those materials are being provided.
- Mrs. Taylor asked about hiring a social worker that is essential for social-emotional. We explained that Pride has always had two. We also want to add an additional nurse to the staff during this time for extra support.
- Mrs. Taylor asked about who reports to Health Dept. – Nurse, Mr. Ofstad,
- Mr. Mitchel asked which testing – Rapid or PCR. We are doing PCR.
- Mr. Mitchell asked if ESSA money will pay for testing. - Right now it's free to the school but our nurses could also be trained also they will be occupied
- St. Barnabas Mobile Unit to provide vaccinations to our families, staff and their families. Ice Cream trucks will also be available to promote vaccinations.
- Mr. Mitchell – How many staff and students are vaccinated? - Families we don't know but we will need to survey. Staff will be required to complete and provide proof of vaccination.

RESOLUTIONS TO: Presented by Dr. Jones and Mrs. Thomas

RI. Accept the following resignations from Joseline Godos, ELA Teacher and Tiffany Walker, Social Worker effective August 19, 2021; and August 24, 2021, respectively - Attachments R1

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the resignations from Joseline Godos, ELA Teacher and Tiffany Walker, Social Worker effective August 19, 2021 and August 24, 2021 respectively

R2. Accept the hiring of Marlys Giordano as ELA Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year - Attachment R2

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the hiring of Marlys Giordano as ELA Teacher for the 2021-2022 school year

R3. Accept the hiring of Kassim Mincy as Teacher Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year - Attachment R3

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the hiring of Kassim Mincy as Teacher Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year

R4. Accept the hiring of Elijah Bennett as Teacher Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year – Attachment R4

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the hiring of Elijah Bennett as Teacher Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year

R5. Accept the hiring of Imari Kelling as Teacher Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year - Attachment R5

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the hiring of Imari Kelling as Teacher Assistant for the 2021-2022 school year

R6. Approve the medical leave of Mrs. K. King-Morris, Science Teacher, starting September 7, 2021, through December 31, 2021

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the medical leave of Mrs. K. King-Morris, Science Teacher, starting September 7, 2021, through December 31, 2021

R7. Approve the medical leave of Mr. J. Charles, Social Worker, starting August 24, 2021, through October 4, 2021

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the medical leave of Mr. J. Charles, Social Worker, starting August 24, 2021, through October 4, 2021

R8. Approve the independent contract for Social Work services for 90-days, beginning August 25, 2021 - November 24, 2021 – Attachment R8

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the independent contract for Social Work services for 90 days, beginning August 25, 2021

R9. Accept the resolution to combine First Read and Second Read/Adoption for immediate implementation of specific policies as board deems critical.

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept the resolution to combine First Read and Second Read/Adoption for immediate implementation of specific policies as board deems critical.

R10. Accept modifications and adopt the following Policy: 3542.2 - School Meal Program Arrears - Attachment R10

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To modifications and adopt the following Policy: 3542.2 - School Meal Program Arrears

R11. Accept modifications and adopt the following Policy: 6140 - Curriculum Adoption - Attachment R11

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept modifications and adopt the following Policy: 6140 - Curriculum Adoption

R12. Accept modifications and adopt the following Policy: 2224.1 - Title IX - Sex-Based Discrimination -- Attachment R12

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To accept modifications and adopt the following Policy: 2224.1 - Title IX - Sex-Based Discrimination

R13. Approve the modified School Calendar for 2021-2022 - Attachment R13

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve the modified School Calendar for 2021-2022

R14. Approve the hiring of Nanayaa Farl as Social Worker for 2021-2022 - Attachment R14

Motion to approve: Mrs. Taylor

Seconded: Mr. Moore

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Mr. Moore - in favor

Motion Carried

BOARD VOTED: To approve hiring of Nanayaa Farl as Social Worker for 2021-2022

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Board Retreat will be taking place on either Sept. 11 or Sept. 23. Please stay tuned for emails and more information.**
- **Dr. Jones would like to add a facility report to the board meeting.**

OLD BUSINESS:

→ Board training transcript was sent to everyone. There were some discrepancies, which the NJSBA was notified of. Returning members for 3 or 4 terms must take Governance 4. Links for those virtual trainings were provided. Please take them and register, ideally before the charter renewal. Looking at By Laws regarding term dates in order to have end of term dates moved to June 30 in order to end school year. Realistic terms dates need to be realistic and staggered so that all members are not having terms end at different dates. This will come up for a vote during our September or October board meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

→ NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm.

Motion to approve: Dr. Morgan-Black

Seconded: Mrs. Taylor

Vote:

Mr. Mitchell- in favor

Mrs. Taylor – in favor

Dr. Morgan-Black - Abstain

Motion Carried

Motion Carried: Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.