

**PVPA Charter Public School**  
**Board of Trustees**  
Meeting Minutes

***November 14, 2017***

*Present:* Mary Ahlstrom, Donovan Arthen, James Barnhill, Claire Bennett, Rachel Dionne, Gary Huggett, Deborah Jacobson, Marc Kenen, Sean Moore, Alison Noyes, Jorge Rodriguez, Zevey Steinitz, Geoff Sumi, Stephen Therrien, Melinda Winter

*Staff Present:* Marcy Conner, George Simpson

*Next meeting:* December 12, 2017; 6:00pm; Library

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Meeting called to order at 6:02pm with quorum.

**Mission Statement:**

Read by Donovan Arthen

**Public Comment:**

None

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes of the October 10, 2017 meeting approved with the addition of student members present on the roll call (8 in favor; no opposed; 2 abstentions – Deb Jacobson and Donovan Arthen)

**President's Business:** (presented by Geoff Sumi)

- Geoff announced his resignation from the Board effective December 31, 2017. Members are asked to submit their nomination for the Board Presidency to James Barnhill, via e-mail, by December 1, 2017 at noon.
- Discussion on the appointment of a committee to engage in collective bargaining with potential PVPA Union. A request to unionize has already been submitted to the state through the UAW. The state has 40 days from the date of filing to certify the union. The first contract is typically the most difficult as the contract is starting from scratch. Marc Kenen and Melinda Winter volunteered as board liaisons to assist the Head of School and school administration with contract negotiations, should the union be certified.
- A motion was made and approved by consensus to delegate authority to the Head of School and School Administration to bargain with the union, should it be certified, and to appoint Marc Kenen and Melinda Winters as

liaisons to that effort. Any potential contract will be subject to board approval. (11 in favor, no opposed, 2 abstentions – Gary Huggett and Jorge Rodriguez).

- Deborah Jacobson, Rachel Dionne, Alison Noyes, James Barnhill, and Geoff Sumi were present during the DESE site visit. Geoff explained the questions that were asked by the representatives during the meeting.

**Finance:** (presented by Marcy Conner)

- Finance committee met on November 7, 2017. The potential sale of a piece of property adjacent to school grounds was discussed. The Finance Committee is still looking for new members. A student approached the committee requesting to become a student representative member.
- The committee discussed the changes to open meeting law that were posted on October 6, 2017. And how the changes may affect the meeting agenda and minutes.
- The Salary & Benefits November 2017 actual vs budget analysis. Actual results are better than budget as a few positions need to be filled.

**Governance:** (presented by James Barnhill)

- Election of Marcus McLaurin as new board member (parent representative) was tabled due to his absence from the meeting.
- Head of School Performance Evaluation Committee will be soliciting feedback from faculty and staff on Head of School performance. The committee will also meet with various members of the administrative team and faculty. A brief online survey will also be sent out. The information that is collected will be collated and submitted to Head of School in January and results shared with Board at the February meeting.

**Head of School:** (presented by George Simpson)

- A November 2017 Head of School report was distributed to board members and discussed.
- An overview of the DESE site visit was presented.
- An updated organizational chart was presented to board and discussed.

**Students:** (presented by Mary Ahlstrom and Claire Bennett)

- A school dance for grades 9-10 is being planned for February 2018.
- Spirit week went well.
- Feminist Coalition is in its final stages on providing facility of access of feminine hygiene products.

**Staff:** (presented by Gary Huggett and Jorge Rodriguez)

- Faculty and staff are pleased with organization that Freeman Stein, the interim academic programs director, is bringing to the school.
- There has been some concern about Paideia. Teacher representatives are relieved to hear that a coordinator has been put in place to lead the planning.
- The performance season is beginning. Staff is still looking for some more support by administration during the performance season.

**Open Session:**

- Alison Noyes is seeking volunteers to assist her in collaborating on the Board Documents Project.

**Public Comment:**

- A Curriculum Day will be held on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving. A Department Head suggested that perhaps the Head of School Evaluation Committee hold meetings on that day with teachers and staff to obtain HoS evaluation feedback.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made and approved by consensus at 7:20pm. (13 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel D. Dionne, Board Secretary