PVPA Charter Public School

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

# **February 26, 2018**

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| Present: | Mary Ahlstrom, Donovan Arthen, Ian Bard, James Barnhill, Rachel Dionne, Gary Huggett, Deborah Jacobson, Marcus McLaurin, Sean Moore, Alison Noyes, Shubhada Rella-Brooks, Jorge Rodriguez, Zevey Steinitz, Stephen Therrien, Melinda Winter |
| Absent: | Keith Black |
| Staff Present: | Marcy Conner, Brent Nielsen |
| Next meeting: | March 13, 2018; 5:30pm; Library |

Meeting called to order at 5:38pm with quorum.

**Mission Statement:**

Read by Donovan Arthen

**Public Comment:**

None

Melinda Winter requested that an executive session be convened for the following reasons:

*To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived.*

The president announced that the board would reconvene in Public Session following Executive Session.

**Roll Call Vote to convene in Executive Session**

Donovan Arthen (aye), James Barnhill (aye), Rachel Dionne (aye), Gary Huggett (aye), Deborah Jacobson (aye), Sean Moore (aye), Alison Noyes (aye), Shubhada Rella-Brooks (aye), Jorge Rodriguez (aye), Zevey Steinitz (aye), Stephen Therrien (aye), Melinda Winter (aye)

Marcy Conner, Brent Nielsen, Attorney James Donnelly, Attorney David Perry, and George Simpson were asked to attend Executive Session

**Adjournment:**

Public session adjourned at 5:41pm and Executive Session called to order at 5:45pm.

Public session reconvened at 7:22pm.

**President’s Business:** (presented by Melinda Winter)

* Review Task Force Report on the Employment of George Simpson.

In light of additional information supplied to the Task Force today as well as discussion at our previous meeting, the members of the Task Force stand behind their recommendation to terminate George Simpson for just cause pursuant to the clause in his contract. A friendly amendment was added and accepted to not include George Simpson’s conduct relative to the proposed hiring of a Director of Development. (3 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

A motion was made and approved by consensus to adopt each and every one of the factual findings of the Task Force Report, distributed during executive session at the meeting, as true and accurate, and to adopt the conclusions and recommendations of the Task Force Report. A friendly amendment was added and accepted to exclude George Simpson’s conduct relative to the proposed hiring of a Director of Development.

(9 in favor; no opposed; 3 abstentions – Gary Huggett, Alison Noyes, Jorge Rodriguez)

A motion was made and approved by consensus that good cause exists for the termination of George Simpson’s employment and the term of George Simpson’s employment agreement for the reasons state in the Task Force Report, excluding Simpson’s conduct relative to the proposed hiring of a Director of Development, with each and every one of such reasons determined as independently sufficient to support the finding of good case as just described.

(9 in favor; no opposed; 3 abstentions – Gary Huggett, Alison Noyes, Jorge Rodriguez)

A motion was made and approved by consensus to terminate George Simpson’s employment and the term of George Simpson’s employment agreement, effective immediately.

(10 in favor; no opposed; 2 abstentions – Gary Huggett and Jorge Rodriguez)

A motion was made and approved by consensus to bar George Simpson permanently from entering any premises owned by, leased to, or under the control of PVPA, effectively immediately upon adoption of this vote. (8 in favor; no opposed; 4 abstentions – Gary Huggett, Alison Noyes, Shubhada Rella-Brooks, Jorge Rodriguez)

A motion was made and approved by consensus to bar George Simpson permanently from attending any function involving faculty, staff, students, and/or trustees of PVPA, with respect to which PVPA has the legal right to bar his attendance, without the written permission of school leadership. (8 in favor; no opposed; 4 abstentions – Gary Huggett, Alison Noyes, Shubhada Rella-Brooks, Jorge Rodriguez)

A motion was made and approved by consensus to pay directly the actual amount of George Simpson’s COBRA payments for up to six months from today’s date provided that all the following conditions are met: (1) George Simpson provides sufficient proof, in the Chief Financial Officer of PVPA’s discretion, that he has no other third party source of such payment (2) George Simpson is not in a medical or other facility that provides medical services to him without the requirement of reimbursement by George Simpson (3) George Simpson does not have other medical insurance (4) The COBRA payment will result in George Simpson receiving medical insurance (5) George Simpson would not be eligible for medical insurance through another employer. All of the foregoing five conditions must be met in order for PVPA to make the COBRA payment. Failure of any of these conditions must be brought to the attention of the Board of Trustees. This vote may be rescinded, and payments stopped immediately, at any time, at the discretion of the President of the Board of Trustees. This vote does not constitute a binding agreement between PVPA and George Simpson, nor is it intended to be for the benefit of any third parties. (10 in favor; no opposed, 2 abstentions – Gary Huggett and Jorge Rodriquez)

* Review Interim Leadership Plan

President requested that this agenda item be tabled until the March Meeting.

A motion was made and approved by consensus to table the review of an interim leadership plan until the next schedule Board Meeting. (11 in favor; no opposed, 1 abstention – Gary Huggett)

A motion was made and approved by consensus to authorize Board President to form a committee to post and hire an Interim Executive Director for remainder of year.

(12 in favor; no opposed, no abstentions)

**Open Session:**

None

**Public Comment:**

The Administrative Team was thanked for their hard work during these past few months. Their grace, professionalism, and positive attitude during this time have been remarkable. Gratitude was expressed toward the attorneys and support staff at Mirick, O'Connell, DeMallie & Lougee.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made and approved by consensus at 8:06pm. (11 in favor; no opposed; no abstentions)

Respectfully submitted by,

Rachel D. Dionne, Board Secretary