

FIRST PHILADELPHIA PREPARATORY
CHARTER SCHOOL
4300 TACONY STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

LOCATION:
ZOOM CONFERENCE

DATE & TIME:
FEBRUARY 26, 2025
6:00 P.M.

Minutes

SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER

Opening Colloquy

This meeting of the First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School Board of Trustees is hereby called to order. The time is 6:03 p.m. My name is Anita Vega-Kaiser. I am the President of this Board of Trustees, and I will facilitate this meeting.

This meeting is being held via teleconference. This is a public meeting that was properly noticed in the Philadelphia Daily News and pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. The public notice included instructions for how the public could participate in tonight's meeting.

All members of the public are welcome to sit and listen to the Board of Trustees conduct its business tonight. Members of the public who have registered with the Administrative Office to participate in public comment by 5:00 p.m. on the day before this scheduled meeting may participate in public comment. At this time, I would ask that the Executive Administration submit the list of commenters to our General Counsel. Comments will be limited to three minutes unless the Board decides to grant additional time.

At this time, I will ask that Roll Call be taken.

A. ROLL CALL

Board Members Present:	By Invitation: Non-Board Members:
Anita Vega-Kaiser – President Dr. Martha J. Ritter – Vice-President ShoShana Skates – Secretary MyDirah Littlepage-Saunders Board Members Absent: Teresa Grumbrecht - Treasurer	Deborah Smith Jennifer Marsico Dr. Erina Pearlstein Deanna Smith Ashley Redfearn Kristine Magargee Scott Kramer Peter Costa Dean Krebs, Esq. Barbara L. Saunders John Bish

B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION *BY ANITA VEGA-KAISER*

I would like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting, that the Board of Trustees did not meet in Executive Session prior to this meeting.

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION:

SHOSHANA
SKATES

SECOND:

MARTHA RITTER

VOTE:

☒ PASS

☐ FAIL

R250226.01 Approval of the February 26, 2025 Agenda

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School hereby approves the February 26, 2025 Agenda.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

Who	What
Board	General discussion

MOTION:

MYDIRAH
LITTLEPAGE-
SAUNDERS

SECOND:

R250226.02 Minutes of the January 22, 2025 Meeting

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the January

MR

VOTE:

☒ PASS

☐ FAIL

22, 2025 meeting of the Board of Trustees of First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

SECTION II: REPORTS

A. COMMUNITY COMMENT

Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)

Good evening. My name is Dean Krebs, and I am with Sand & Sidel, P.C., General Counsel to the First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School Board of Trustees. Will you please state your name for our records?

You will have three minutes to address the Board of Trustees. Any documents or communications with which you might supplement your comment should be submitted to me. I will keep the time and notify the Board when three minutes have elapsed.

This Board may choose not to comment, question, or respond in any way to your public comment. I will begin the time now.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>

A. FIRST PHILADELPHIA PREPARATORY CHARTER SCHOOL

a. Ms. Deborah Smith, CEO of FPPCS

- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
- ii. Reviewed and discussed with the Board applicable enrollment and attendance data;*
- iii. Shared security/safety drills with the Board that have occurred throughout the year; and*
- iv. Informed the Board of new crossing guards*

b. Ms. Jennifer Marsico (ES), Principal at FPPCS

- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*

- ii. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board 3-5 Grade proficiency rates and shared STAR Data*
- c. *Ms. Deana Smith, Principal (MS) at FPPCS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Shared with the Board that attendance dropped, mainly because of late arrival days resulting in parents not sending students;*
 - iii. *Shared STAR Data with the Board, highlighting where greatest gains were made;*
 - iv. *Provided CSC highlights, such as buddy Day and various sports/athletic events*
- d. *Dr. Erina Pearlstein, Principal (HS) at FPPCS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Discussed attendance and incentives with the Board;*
 - iii. *Informed the Board that benchmark data has been improving, showing double proficiency/advanced from last year.*
- e.

B. BUSINESS CONTROLLER

- a. *Mr. Peter Costa, Santilli & Thomson, LLC*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the January 2025 financial reports*
 - ii. *Shared previously sharing reports with Finance Committee and that they look good;*
 - iii. *Expressed that annual auditors would start soon.*

C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn, CEO of APS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Reiterated APS philosophy based on data driven analysis.*
- b. *Mr. Scott Kramer, CTO of APS*
 - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
 - ii. *Discussed efforts towards obtaining \$250,000 grant;*
 - iii. *noted efforts made to employee prior student-teachers; and*
 - iv. *Discussed FMLA rates and employee Referral Program utilization*
- c. *Ms. Kristine Magargee, CAO of APS*

- i. Reviewed and discussed with the Board the February 2025 APS report, previously disseminated to the Board;
- ii. Discussed ELA Curriculum Learning Walks, PDS, and providing additional for 10-12th grade teachers;
- iii. Discussed Math Curriculum efforts to ensure teachers can implement the program;
- iv. Shared Coaching efforts;
- v. Updated Board on Data Team efforts, including analyzing STAR Data, reviewing ACE compliance matter;
- vi. Discussed efforts for pupil services being undertaken, including various monthly meetings in a wide-range of areas such as SPED, McKinney Vento, and others; and
- vii. Shared Caring School Community events

D. GENERAL COUNSEL

- a. None

SECTION III: OLD BUSINESS

SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION:

MYDIRAH
LITTLEPAG
E-
SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MR

VOTE:

[X] PASS

[] FAIL

R250226.03 Report of the Business Controller

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School accepts the Financial Report of the Business Controller and all documents submitted thereby, which shall be incorporated into the record of this meeting.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>

R250226.04 Human Resources Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School accepts the Human Resources changes, modifications, and additions, as presented.

MOTION:

MYDIRAH
LITTLEPAG
E-
SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MR

VOTE:

☒ PASS

☐ FAIL

HIRES / RATE CHANGE / POSITION CHANGE / RETURN LOA		
NAME	TITLE	START DATE
Todd Fausnacht (Return LOA)	HS Counselor	2/10/25

TERMINATIONS / RESIGNATIONS / LOA		
NAME	TITLE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Gregory Cooper (resignation)	MS SPED Teacher	2/29/25
Tenia Washington (LOA)	NTA	1/21/25
Christine Grotkowski (LOA)	HS Math Teacher	1/6/25
Benjamin Razzi (LOA)	ES SPED Teacher	1/27/25

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>

MOTION:

SHOSHANA
SKATES

SECOND:

MYDIRAH
LITTLEPAG
E-
SAUNDERS

VOTE:

☒ PASS

☐ FAIL

R241218.05 Professional Services Contract/s Resolution

RESOLVED, the Professional Services Contract/s and associated report/s listed below are hereby accepted and ratified;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, Business Controller, and General Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to negotiate contract/s for the professional services described below;

FURTHER RESOLVED, the President is authorized to execute any document or delegate any task necessary to effectuate this resolution.

Contractor	Amount	Comment: Terms and Conditions
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Green Tree School & Services	\$387.31 / day / student	Private placement Two (2) students
Green Tree School & Services	\$225.71/ day / student	Vendor of 1:1 Services
Focused Staffing Group	Long-Term Certified Teacher: \$60/hr Special Education Cert. Teacher: \$70/hr Clerical: \$35/hr Psychologist: \$90/hr Psychologist (per evaluation): \$1200 BCBA: \$78/hr RBT: \$32/hr Speech Language Pathologist: \$80/hr Occupational Therapist: \$85/hr Physical Therapist: \$85/hr Bus Driver: \$40/hr Bus Aide: \$30/hr	Staffing services
Realty Landscaping	\$1,237.00 / month Total: \$12,370	Landscaping services Term: 10 Months

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
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<i>Board</i>	<i>General discussion</i>
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B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Vega-Kaiser
 - *Reminded Board of completing SOFI*

NEXT BOARD MEETING: MARCH 26, 2025 AT 6:00 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT AT 7:07P.M.

MOTION:

SHOSHANA SKATES

SECOND:

MYDIRAH
 LITTLEPAGE-SAUNDERS

VOTE:

☒ PASS

☐ FAIL