

LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY
900 W. Lindley Avenue¹
Philadelphia, PA 19141
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
APRIL 21, 2020
6:00 PM

MINUTES

SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER

Opening Colloquy

This April 21, 2020 Board of Trustees meeting of the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney Board of Trustees is hereby called to Order. The time is 6:01 pm. My name is Lisa Johnson. I am the President of this Board of Trustees and I will facilitate this meeting.

This is a public meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney that was properly advertised pursuant to the Pennsylvania Sunshine Act. The public meeting schedule is posted at the school and on the website in the monthly calendar.

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 pm on the day before this scheduled meeting may participate in public comment. At this time, I would ask that executive administration submit the list of commenters to our legal 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

Lisa Johnson — President
Jane McAndrew — Treasurer
Ana Christina Melhor — Secretary
Barbara Saunders — Vice President
Regina Felder — Trustee
Evette Bowman — Trustee
Reginald Howard — Trustee

Board Members Present:

Lisa Johnson
Jane McAndrew
Ana Christina Melhor

By Invitation: Non-Board Members:

Dr. Margery Covello, CEO
Nancy White, Principal
Ralph Lovelidge, Principal

¹ This meeting is being publicly held through a zoom conference, which is open to members of the public online via <https://zoom.us/j/99860656329> or by telephone at 1-646-558-8656.

Barbara Saunders
Regina Felder
Evette Bowman
Reginald Howard

Elaine Latimer, Director of SPED
Melanie Ludy, Science Teacher
Kristen Phillips, 1st Grade Teacher
Natasha McManus, Learning Support
Teacher
David Hussey, Esq.
Peter Costa, Santilli and Thomson
Gerald Santilli, President & CEO, APS
Ashley Redfearn, Executive Director, APS
Katie Santilli, CBO, APS
Kristine Magargee, CAO, APS
Scott Kramer, CTO, APS

Board Members Absent

B. Chairperson's Disclosure: Executive Session

Lisa Johnson — *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
BLS
SECOND
ACM
VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

Resolution 20042101 **Approval of the Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the **April 21, 2020** Agenda.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Reviewed the April 21, 2020 agenda</i>

D. Approval of Minutes

MOTION
ACM
SECOND
BLS
VOTE:
 PASS
 FAIL

Resolution 20042102 **Approval of the February 18, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the Minutes of the **February 18, 2020** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Reviewed the February 18, 2020 minutes</i>

SECTION II: Reports

A. Community Comment

Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)

Good Evening, my name is David Hussey with Sand & Saidel, P.C., General Counsel to the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney 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 that you might supplement your comment with 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.

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>

A. Business Controller

P. Costa presented the written monthly report of the business controller, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting savings and expenses due to the school closure.

P. Costa additionally reviewed the draft 2020-21 budget, highlighting:

- + The development and drafting of the budget; and*
- + Major budgetary assumptions, including staffing costs and revenues.*

B. Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney CEO

M. Covello presented the written monthly report of the CEO, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting:

- + The collaborative efforts of the staff and APS to proactively prepare to continue educating students during the coronavirus emergency;*
- + The current program of providing review and enrichment to all students and upcoming plans to provide planned instruction;*
- + Efforts to engage families and assess their needs through family communication surveys;*
- + Distribution of chromebooks to provide access to all students;*
- + Ongoing challenges with remote learning and efforts to address them, including efforts to motivate students and ensure that students remain connected, as well as data regarding assignment completion;*
- + Food services offered to students during the school closure;*
- + The role of non-teaching staff, including check-ins with students and efforts to assist with student learning;*
- + Efforts and collaboration by staff members to support remote learning; and*

+ *The cultural competency book club.*

B. Saunders and R. Felder commended the school and its staff on their efforts to address the coronavirus emergency and ensure that all children have access to the educational program. The Board and M. Covello additionally discussed the development of a survey to assess the efficacy of the remote learning program. The Board and M. Covello additionally discussed efforts to ensure that students experiencing homelessness have access to remote learning.

C. American Paradigm Schools

A. Redfearn presented the written monthly report of APS, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein. S. Kramer discussed efforts to recruit staff and interview candidates during the coronavirus emergency.

SECTION III: UNFINISHED BUSINESS — NONE

SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTIONS

MOTION
BLS
SECOND
ACM
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 20042103 Approval of Reports

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby accepts the report of the CEO of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the written report and the documents presented by the School Administration to the board;

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby accepts the report of American Paradigm Schools and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the written report and the documents presented by American Paradigm Schools; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby reviews and accepts the Financial Report of Peter Costa and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the Treasurer's Report and the documents presented by Peter Costa to the board.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Reviewed and discussed the monthly reports</i>

MOTION
BLS
SECOND
RH
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 20042104 Continuity of Education Plan

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the continuity of education plan, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

MOTION
EB
SECOND
JM
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board; M. Covello</i>	<i>Reviewed and discussed the continuity of education plan</i>

Resolution 20042105 Academic Calendar

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the 2020-21 academic calendar, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board; M. Covello</i>	<i>Reviewed and discussed the proposed academic calendar</i>

MOTION
RF
SECOND
RH
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 20042106 Board Meeting Calendar

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the 2020-21 board meeting calendar, as presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Board</i>	<i>Reviewed and discussed the proposed meeting calendar</i>

MOTION
BLS
SECOND
ACM
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 20042107 Construction Management Services

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the construction management services of BSI Construction, LLC, as presented; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the CEO, in consultation with legal counsel and the business controller, is authorized and directed to negotiate and enter into a contract upon the terms presented.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>M. Covello</i>	<i>Discussed the proposed construction management services, including the scope of construction work</i>

MOTION
BLS
SECOND
RH
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL

Resolution 20042108 Statement of Opposition to Proposed Funding Cuts

WHEREAS the right of parents to choose the best school for their children is an urgent civil right;

WHEREAS, all over this Commonwealth, as in every state in the United States, parents of 143,000 students have selected charter schools as the best educational fit for their children; with thousands more on waiting lists;

WHEREAS the vast majority of brick and mortar charter schools are located in underserved areas with a high percentage of economically disadvantaged students;

WHEREAS charter schools receive 25% less funding per student than traditional public schools yet continue to offer superior choice for students; for example, brick and mortar charter schools do not receive per pupil revenue relating to facilities;

Whereas, charter schools are required by law to operate as public non-profit corporations and are directly accountable to the local authorizing school board and to the Pennsylvania Department of Education

WHEREAS, the boards of trustees of charter schools are public officials and operate their meetings in public and are required, like school district board members, to file annual ethics statements of financial interest;

WHEREAS, charter schools do not “take” money from school districts, rather school funding follows the student and the family who has made a conscious choice to enroll in a charter school;

WHEREAS the legislative intent of the Charter School Law is to promote innovative education and increased opportunities for students;

WHEREAS the Pennsylvania Department of Education already authorizes deductions to charter school funding beyond what is provided for in the Charter School Law;

WHEREAS, parents often select charter schools because their students have special education needs;

WHEREAS, the Governor, through his supporters, has introduced House Bill 2261 and Senate Bill 1064 which will greatly cut funding for charter schools;

WHEREAS the Governor claims he seeks to “level the playing field” in charter funding, with charters already receiving 25% less than school districts, any funding cuts, leveled at special education students would jeopardize the existence of charter schools and therefore limit or eliminate choices for families, especially racial minorities and impoverished students;

WHEREAS, 150 school districts in the Commonwealth fail to make legally required monthly payments to charter schools, thus creating cash flow problems and requiring charter schools to expend time and effort seeking redirection from the Department of Education;

WHEREAS, Governor Wolf displayed his unfair bias against charter schools and their families when he issued an executive requiring charter schools to

pay a fee each time a school district violated the law by not making legally required charter school tuition reimbursements and thus forcing charter school to assert a redirection claim;

WHEREAS, charter school students and their families pay tax dollars to fund schools and charter schools are public schools; and

WHEREAS, regardless of what public school a child attends, school district, brick and mortar charter or cyber charter, they are all public school children and deserve the same financial support.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby strongly opposes and condemns Governor Wolf's charter school funding cut proposals which are embodied in House Bill 2261 and Senate Bill 1024 and urges the Pennsylvania General Assembly to reject these dangerous and destructive cuts. A copy of this Resolution shall be publicized to the Governor, Pennsylvania General Assembly, media outlets and social media as well as other relevant sources.

Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>M. Covello</i>	<i>Discussed Gov. Wolf's proposed budget cuts and their potential impact upon Lindley Academy</i>

SECTION VII: DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ❖ NEXT BOARD MEETING: TUESDAY MAY 19TH, 2020 @ 6PM
- ❖ COMPLETED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL INTERESTS ARE DUE BY MAY 1, 2020

Adjournment @ 7:47 pm

MOTION
EB
SECOND
RH
VOTE:
[X] PASS
[] FAIL
