

# LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY

900 W. LINDLEY AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

LOCATION:  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

DATE & TIME:  
OCTOBER 21, 2025  
6:00 P.M.

## **MINUTES**

### **SECTION I: CALL TO ORDER**

#### *Opening Colloquy*

This meeting of the Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney Board of Trustees is hereby called to order. The time is 6:01 P.M. My name is Reginald Howard. I am the President of this Board of Trustees, and I will facilitate this meeting.

This meeting is being held via video teleconference. 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 notice included instructions for how the public could participate in tonight's meeting. 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 5:00 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**

| <b>Board Members Present:</b>   | <b>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</b>   |
|---|--|
| Reginald Howard — President<br>Sandra Farmer — Vice President<br>Anita Vega-Kaiser — Secretary<br>Barbara L. Saunders — Treasurer<br>Evette Alliston — Trustee<br><br><b>Board Members Absent:</b><br><br>Regina Felder — Trustee | Dr. Margery Covello, CEO<br>Nancy White, Principal<br><br>Ashley Redfearn, CEO, APS<br>Kristine Magargee, Chief Academic Officer, APS<br>Scott Kramer, Chief Talent Officer, APS<br><br>Peter Costa, Santilli & Thomson, LLC<br>Samuel Mercanti, Santilli & Thomson, LLC<br><br>Dr. Kaitlin K. Moran, Advisory Trustee<br><br>Abigail Lipow, Esq.<br><br>Luc Sigquad, Charter Schools Office<br>Seraphina Parker, Charter Schools Office |

**B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION *BY REGINALD HOWARD***

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

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:  
  
 SANDRA FARMER  
 SECOND:  
 BARBARA L.  
 SAUNDERS  
  
 VOTE:  
 X PASS  
 [ ] FAIL

**Resolution 251021.01 Approval of the October 21, 2025 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the **October 21, 2025** Agenda.

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

| <b><i>Who</i></b> | <b><i>What</i></b>        |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i>      | <i>General Discussion</i> |

**D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

MOTION:  
 EA  
  
 SECOND:  
 BS

**Resolution 251021.02 Approval of the September 16, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

VOTE:  
X PASS  
[] FAIL

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the Minutes of the **September 16, 2025** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney.

***Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:***

| <b><i>Who</i></b> | <b><i>What</i></b>        |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Board</i>      | <i>General Discussion</i> |

**SECTION II: REPORTS**

**A. COMMUNITY COMMENT**

*Community Comment Colloquy (General Counsel)*

Good evening. My name is Abigail Lipow, and I am 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 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:***

| <b><i>Who</i></b> | <b><i>What</i></b> |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <i>None</i>       | <i>None</i>        |

**A. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

*P. Costa presented the monthly written financial report, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting:*

- Thanked the Board with respect to his retirement from Santilli & Thomson; Announced Samuel Mercanti will be taking over representation for the school*
- Positive surplus shown for the 2024-2025 school year*
- The reconciliation for the subsidy in October is available now*
- Reviewed current financial outlook with the Board*

**B. LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY CEO**

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

- Presented the Mission Moment – Pink Out for Breast Cancer Awareness Month; money donated to American Cancer Society*
- Presented currently enrollment numbers, SPED enrollment numbers, and waitlist numbers*
- LACS will also go through SPED cyclical monitoring in November*
- The school is keeping track of the government shutdown, as 93% of LACS families are identified as receiving SNAP benefits, which will be at risk if the shutdown continues*

- Reviewed initial round of academic data for testing
  - o IRLA Reading Data
  - o STAR Early Lit and Math Screening
    - Taken in September and May of each school year
  - o Firefly assessment was given for the first time in October
    - Benchmark test that simulates the PSSAs, which will be taken online this year
- State Rep. Darisha Parker's fully funded community garden will be open the week of 10/30
- 49<sup>th</sup> District has contacted the school and would like to do a toy drive with students
- LACS will receive two volunteers through the Foster Grandparent Program with the City
- LACS received a grant from Young Artists—a visual arts teaching artist will come to LACS for 5 days

### **C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO**

*A. Redfearn presented the monthly written APS report, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting:*

- Presented Social Media Report and Media Outreach updates
- Supporting LACS's Extended Day/Extended Year program and coordinating with the Mayor's representative and the Program Coordinator
- Presented enrollment demographics for all schools

*S. Kramer presented the monthly written HR report, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting:*

- Providing school based certification supports for teachers
- Met with student teacher placement team at Temple University
- Reviewed relevant changes to new PFT contract
- Worked with legal team to develop Act 55 training for Advisory Board members
- Updated Board on H-1B Visa status from the federal government, which may impact some staff
- APS continues to work with Elevate215 to build talent pipeline for teachers

*K. Magargee presented the monthly written Academic report, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting:*

- ELA Team development updates to support teachers
- Entered Coaching Rotation, mostly with new hires or novice teachers
- New Teacher Induction took place on 9/19, which focused on effective praise and redirection
- Supporting 4 LACS SPED teachers enrolled in the Pointe Park Program to get their certification

### **SECTION III: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**NONE**

### **SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS**

#### **A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION:

SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:

EVETTE ALLISON

VOTE:

X PASS

[ ] FAIL

### Resolution 251021.03 Approval of Reports

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney accepts the report of the CEO of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney and all documents submitted thereby, which shall be incorporated into the record of this meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney accepts the report of American Paradigm Schools and all documents submitted thereby, which shall be incorporated into the record of this meeting; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby reviews and accepts the Financial Report of Peter Costa of Santilli & Thomson 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>General Discussion</i> |

MOTION:  
BARBARA L.  
SAUNDERS

SECOND:  
SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:

X PASS

[ ] FAIL

### Resolution 251021.04 Professional Services Contracts

RESOLVED, the 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.

| <b>Contractor</b>    | <b>Amount</b>      | <b>Comment: Terms and Conditions</b>                           |
|----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Limbach Company, LLC | \$5,879.00/quarter | Hydro-Jetting Preventative Maintenance for drains              |
| Limbach Company, LLC | \$3,582.00/quarter | Preventative Maintenance for HVAC and other mechanical systems |

#### *Notes of Discussion / Advance Regulatory and Financial Comment:*

| <i>Who</i>         | <i>What</i>  |
|--------------------|--|
| <i>Dr. Covello</i> | <i>Reviewed proposed contracts with the Board.</i> |

## **B. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- NEXT BOARD MEETING: NOVEMBER 18, 2025 AT 6PM
- FALL FESTIVAL: OCTOBER 24, 2025 AT 5 PM IN THE SCHOOL YARD

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### ADJOURNMENT AT 7:04 PM

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MOTION:

BARBARA L. SAUNDERS

SECOND:

ANITA VEGA-KAISER

VOTE:

X PASS

[ ] FAIL

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