

# LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY

900 W. LINDLEY AVENUE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19141

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

LOCATION:  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

DATE & TIME:  
JANUARY 20, 2026  
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 6:08 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 Sandra Farmer — Vice President Anita Vega-Kaiser — Secretary Barbara L. Saunders — Treasurer Regina Felder — Trustee Evette Alliston — Trustee  <b>Board Members Absent:</b>	Dr. Margery Covello, CEO Nancy White, Principal Elaine Latimer, Special Education  Ashley Redfearn, CEO, APS Kristine Magargee, Chief Academic Officer, APS Scott Kramer, Chief Talent Officer, APS  Samuel Mercanti, Santilli & Thomson, LLC  Abigail Lipow, Esq. Dr. Kathleen Taylor, Board Candidate

**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.*

UPON MOTION BY BARBARA SAUNDERS AND SECOND BY SANDRA FARMER, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO ENTER CLOSED SESSION TO DISCUSS CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS AND CONSULT WITH A PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR.

UPON MOTION BY ANITA VEGA-KAISER AND SECOND BY SANDRA FARMER, THE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY MOVED TO ENTER OPEN SESSION.

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:  
REGINA FELDER

SECOND:

EVETTE  
ALLISTON

VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**Resolution 260120.01 Approval of the January 20, 2026 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the **January 20, 2026** 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:  
SANDRA FAMER

SECOND:  
EVETTE  
ALLISTON

VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

### Resolution 260120.02 Approval of the December 2, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the Minutes of the **December 2, 2025** meeting of the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney.

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

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

### **A. LINDLEY ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL AT BIRNEY CEO**

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

- *Mission Moment: Passports Around the World – many LACS alumni returned to enjoy the event*
- *Reviewed enrollment and waitlist numbers*
  - *Trending towards identifying a higher number of special education students this year*
- *Farmer’s Markets and Free Shopping Experiences continue to be successful (sponsored by APS grant and through Mayor’s Office grant)*
- *William Penn Foundation announced grant to provide support to those who want to become certified teachers – LACS applying and will know if it makes second round on February 20, 2026*
- *Chestnut Hill College and Gwynedd Mercy sending students to LACS for alternative spring break*
- *Continuing to prepare for state testing – have started FireFly (simulated) testing; schools are now mandated to test children completely online this year*

## **B. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO**

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

- Reviewed ongoing matters with the Board
- Discussed status of current preference for 8<sup>th</sup> grade LACS students at other schools
- HR Updates
  - Discussed updates for teacher apprenticeship program – now working on K-12 SPED apprenticeship program application
  - Reviewed hiring and interview stats since December 2025
- Academic Updates
  - APS Academic team attended multiple development programs in December 2025
  - Data team working hard to review and analyze data to ensure educational strategies are working

## **C. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

+S. Mercanti presented the monthly financial report, a copy of which is incorporated by reference herein, highlighting the following:

- Reviewed December 2025 finances
- LACS remains in line with approved budget

## **SECTION III: UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

## **SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION:  
SANDRA FARMER

SECOND:  
ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER

VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

### Resolution 260120.03 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 Samuel Mercanti of Santilli & Thomson and hereby incorporates into these minutes by reference the Treasurer's Report and the documents presented by Samuel Mercanti 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:  
ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER

SECOND:  
BARBARA L.  
SAUNDERS

VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

### Resolution 260120.04 Election and Appointment of Trustee

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School hereby ratifies and approves the election and appointment of Dr. Kathleen Taylor as a Trustee.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Oath of Office</i>	<i>I, Dr. Kathleen Talor do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, obey and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of this Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.</i>

MOTION:  
REGINA FELDER

SECOND:  
SANDRA FARMER

VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

### Resolution 260120.05 Human Resources

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby approves the human resources changes, as presented.

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

<i>Who</i>	<i>What</i>
<i>Dr. Covello</i>	<i>Discussed HR changes available in board packet</i>

MOTION:  
ANITA VEGA-  
KAISER  
SECOND:  
SANDRA FARMER  
  
VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

**Resolution 260120.06 Approval of Audit Report**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Lindley Academy Charter School at Birney hereby accepts and approves the independent financial audit report for the year ended June 30, 2025, as presented.

*By Roll Call:*

- Reginald Howard – *aye*
- Sandra Farmer – *aye*
- Anita Vega-Kaiser – *aye*
- Barbara L. Saunders – *aye*
- Regina Felder – *aye*
- Evette Alliston – *aye*
- Kathleen Taylor – *aye*

***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>

**B. UPCOMING EVENTS**

- NEXT BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 17, 2026 AT 6PM

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**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:15**

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MOTION:  
REGINA FELDER  
SECOND:  
SANDRA FARMER  
VOTE:  
 PASS  
 FAIL

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