

# MEMPHIS STREET ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

2950 MEMPHIS STREET  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19134

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

LOCATION:  
ZOOM CONFERENCE CALL

DATE & TIME:  
AUGUST 9, 2023  
6:00 P.M.

## **MINUTES**

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

#### *Opening Colloquy*

This meeting of the Memphis Street Academy Charter School Board of Trustees is hereby called to order. The time is 6:06 p.m. My name is Sandra Farmer. I am the President of this Board of Trustees, and I will facilitate this meeting.

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**

<b>Board Members Present:</b>	<b>By Invitation: Non-Board Members:</b>
Sandra Farmer Barbara L. Saunders Michelle Campellone Amber Wanner  <b>Board Members Absent:</b> Pablo Mateo	Steven Bilski  Ashley Redfearn  Michael Thomson Samuel Mercanti  Dean Krebs, Esq.

**B. DISCLOSURE: EXECUTIVE SESSION *BY SANDRA FARMER***

*I'd like to state, for purposes of the Minutes of this meeting that the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session on June 29, 2023 for purposes under 65 P.S. § 708(a)(4). Specifically, to discuss Memphis St. Acad. Charter Sch. at J.P. Jones v. Sch. Dist. of Philadelphia, No. CV 22-02760, in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania which relates to certain discrimination and declaratory action claims*

**C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

MOTION:

BARBARA L.  
SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MICHELLE  
CAMPELLONE

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R230809.01 Approval of the August 9, 2023 Agenda**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy Charter School hereby approves the August 9, 2023 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:

BARBARA L.  
SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MICHELLE  
CAMPELLONE

VOTE:

PASS

**R230809.02 Minutes of the June 14, 2023 Meeting**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy Charter School hereby approves the Minutes of the June 14, 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy 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 & Saidel, P.C., General Counsel to the Memphis Street Academy 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>

**B. MEMPHIS STREET ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL CEO**

- a. *Mr. Steven Bilski, CEO*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the August 2023 CEO report, previously disseminated to the Board;*
  - ii. *Informed the Board that enrollment was higher than last year;*
  - iii. *Shared staff engagement survey with the Board that overwhelming showed more favorable results than last year;*
  - iv. *Discussed MSA summer school and enrichment program;*
  - v. *Discussed upcoming back-to-school BBQ on Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>;*
  - vi. *Discussed PSSA data with the Board; and*
  - vii. *Discussed 2023-24 Academic goals*

**C. AMERICAN PARADIGM SCHOOLS CEO**

- a. *Ms. Ashley Redfearn, CEO of APS*
  - i. *reviewed and discussed with the Board the August 2023 APS report, previously disseminated with the Board;*
  - ii. *Expressed appreciation for all of MSA’s stakeholders;*
  - iii. *Reviewed and discussed the Gregory FCA social media report;*
  - iv. *Discussed CEO collaborations, including Math framework; and*
  - v. *Noted ongoing advertising at Regal theaters*

**D. BUSINESS CONTROLLER**

- a. *Mr. Samuel Mercanti*
  - i. *Reviewed and discussed with the Board the June 2023 financial report, previously disseminated with the Board; and*

- ii. Informed the Board that the school was waiting to receive approximately ~\$130k IDEA payment.

**E. GENERAL COUNSEL**

a. None

**SECTION III: OLD BUSINESS**

**SECTION IV: NEW BUSINESS**

**A. RESOLUTIONS**

MOTION:

BARBARA L. SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MICHELLE CAMPELLONE

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R230809.03 Report of the Business Controller**

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy 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:***

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

MOTION:

BARBARA L. SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MICHELLE CAMPELLONE

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**R230809.04 Human Resources Resolution**

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy Charter School accepts the Human Resources changes, modifications, and additions, as presented.

<b>HIRES/POSITION CHANGE/SALARY CHANGE</b>		
<b>NAME</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>START DATE</b>
Matthew Siedell (new hire)	Summer Maintenance	7/17/2023
Susan Eliason (new hire)	Teacher - ELA	8/21/2023
Sabrina Alston (new hire)	Teacher - Math	8/21/2023
Christopher Kinney (new hire)	Teacher - Social Studies	8/21/2023

Irisol Rodriguez (new hire)	Teacher - Special Education	8/21/2023
Gabrielle Alfaro (new hire)	Math Specialist	8/21/2023

RESIGNATIONS/TERMINATIONS/NON-RENEW		
NAME	TITLE	END DATE
Jessica Edwards (resignation)	Teacher-Special Education	6/9/2023
Omar Ganz (resignation)	Teacher-ESL	6/9/2023
Michael O'Neill (resignation)	Counselor	6/9/2023
Darrien Peoples (resignations)	Director Of Climate & Culture	7/31/2023
Jessica Edwards (resignation)	Teacher-Special Education	6/9/2023
Dawn Reed-Seeger (job abandonment)	Counselor	8/7/2023

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

Who	What
<i>S. Bilski</i>	<i>Discussed above human resources changes</i>

MOTION:

BARBARA L.  
SAUNDERS

SECOND:

MICHELLE  
CAMPELLONE

VOTE:

[CX] PASS

[ ] FAIL

**R230809.05 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
American Staffing	Substitute Teacher: \$150/day	2023-24 SY

		Staffing services
Kokua Education	Daily Guest Teacher: \$293/day Long-Term Guest Teacher: \$348/day Half-Day Guest Teacher: \$164/day Excess Hours: \$55/hr	2023-24 SY Staffing Services
Spectrum Staffing Solutions, Inc.	PCA: \$27/hr or \$180/day	2023-24 SY Staffing Services
Birch Agency	SPED Teachers: \$80-85/hr Gen. Ed. Teachers: \$38-\$42/hr Paraprofessionals/Educational Aides/Teacher Aides: \$35/hr School Counselors: \$45/hr ESL Teachers: \$45-\$50/hr	2023-24 SY Staffing Services

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

<b>Who</b>	<b>What</b>
<i>Bilski</i>	<i>Noted that SPED teacher fee at Birch Agency was increased from \$80/hr to up to \$85/hr to ensure they can obtain individuals to write IEPs; Board unanimous approved of such compensation increase.</i>

MOOT

**R230809.06 Purchase Contract/s Resolution**

RESOLVED, the Purchase 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 terms and conditions for the Purchase Contract/s 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>
None	None	None

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

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

MOTION:

**R230809.06 Approval of 2023-24 SY Employee Handbook**

MICHELLE  
CAMPELLOE

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy Charter School ratifies and approves of the 2023-24 SY Employee Handbook, as presented.

SECOND:

AMANADA  
WANNER

***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>

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

MOTION:

**R230809.07 Approval of 2023-24 SY Student Handbook**

MICHELLE  
CAMPELLONE

RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of Memphis Street Academy Charter School ratifies and approves of the 2023-24 SY Student Handbook, as presented.

SECOND:

BARBARA L.  
SAUNDERS

***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>

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL

**B. DISCUSSION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

+ Ms. Barbara L. Saunders expressed that the Academic Committee is ready to provide support and work in collaboration with APS.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: SEPTEMBER 13, 2023 AT 6:00 P.M.

**ADJOURNMENT AT 7:18P.M.**

MOTION:

AMANDA WANNER

SECOND:

BARBARA L. SAUNDERS

VOTE:

PASS

FAIL