

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Of The
Board of School Directors
Administrative Offices/District Assembly Room/Zoom
February 23, 2021

1.0 Meeting Opening

A) Call to Order

- The Regular Board Meeting of the Charters Valley Board of School Directors was called to order at 6:57 p.m. by Dr. Mariano in the District Assembly Room and via Zoom.

B) Pledge of Allegiance

C) Roll Call

Present

Dr. Darren Mariano, President
Mrs. Sandy Zeleznik, Vice President
Mr. Jeff Choura
Mrs. Beth Eckenrode
Mr. Robert Kearney
Mr. Eric Kraemer
Mr. Tony Mazzarini
Mrs. Julie Murphy

Also Present

Dr. Johannah Vanatta, Superintendent
Mr. Scott Seltzer, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Misty Slavic, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Don Palmer, Solicitor
Mr. David Seropian, Interim Director of Finance
Ms. Mikaela Duckstein, Director of Communications
& Strategic Partnerships
Ms. Kim Borza, Board Secretary

Absent

Mr. Brian Kopec

E) Recognitions

- There were no recognitions.

F) Public Comments – Agenda Items

- There were no public comments on agenda items.

2.0 Executive Session

- Dr. Mariano stated that there was an executive session prior to this public meeting to discuss personnel and legal matters.

3.0 Superintendent's Reports/Presentations

- Dr. Vanatta announced that Districts received notification that PDE will require testing. Last year we had a waiver for the assessments such as PSSA and Keystones. However this year we do not have that opportunity. We will receive more information regarding time frames, modifications, testing locations and the shortening of some things. Specific schedules with more details will be sent out once we get them from PDE.
- Dr. Vanatta also stated that there is a big push for students to return to their classrooms, it really makes her proud that we are on the flip-side from the beginning. Preliminary conversations have begun about potentially looking at 5 days at the elementary level. There are many aspects to take into consideration, but the potential will continue to be investigated. We have to do what is in the best interest of our students and community.

A) Student Representatives

- Dr. Vanatta read an update submitted by Ms. Carter-Nixon.

4.0 Solicitor's Report

- There was no solicitor's report.

5.0 Informational Agenda

A) Pathfinder

- Mr. Kraemer said they met last week, enrollment is strong at 86 students, they are attending in-person, and they are going to take on some additional security measures. The Facilities Director, who is employed by the AIU, is retiring next month and they signed an agreement with him to work for the Board for a monthly stipend. Pathfinder is still in the midst of their audit, it should be wrapped up soon.

B) Parkway

- Mr. Choura stated that he missed the last meeting to attend a meeting at CVSD. He said that Symmone's report covered everything.

C) SHASDA

- Mrs. Zeleznik said that they received an email today that the student forum and conference has been canceled. SHASDA is asking students to create a video to celebrate great things that are happening in their district. Each school district is being invited to submit a short video that highlights creative, innovative or visionary efforts. The biggest challenge will be sticking to the 1-3 minute limit.

D) Finance Committee Report

- Mrs. Eckenrode stated that there is nothing to report.

6.0 Consent Agenda

A) Meeting Minutes

6.2 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2021.

B) Education

C) Athletics & Activities

D) Personnel

6.3 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the Human Resources Report for February 23, 2021.

E) Budget & Finance

6.4 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the bill list for February 17, 2021.

F) Policy

Motion to approve items 6.2 to 6.4 listed above.

Moved by Mr. Choura, seconded by Mrs. Zeleznik.

On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.

7.0 Action/Discussion

7.1 Curriculum Needs Assessment Presentations

7.2 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the service agreement with UPMC Western Psychiatric Hospital from February 1, 2021 through January 31, 2022 at a rate of \$75 a day per student.

Motion to approve item 7.2 listed above.

Moved by Mr. Mazzarini, seconded by Mr. Kraemer.

On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously

7.3 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to renew the lease agreement with the AIU Head Start Program at the Primary School for 2021-2022.

**Motion to approve item 7.3 listed above.
Moved by Mr. Kearney, seconded by Mr. Kraemer.
On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.**

7.4 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to deny the charter application submitted by Dogwood Charter School and to adopt the Resolution of the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District Denying the Charter Application Submitted by Dogwood Charter School.

7.4.1 *Dr. Mariano read a statement to the Board from Mr. Kopec (who could not attend the meeting) asking them to vote "No" on the Charter School application.*

**Motion to approve item 7.4 listed above.
Moved by Mr. Mazzarini, seconded by Mr. Kearney.
On a roll call vote, the motion passes with 8-yes, 0-no, and 1-absent. (See below & attached)**

7.5 The Superintendent recommends and I so approve to authorize Alicia Henry, of PNC, to develop and deliver to us a formal bond refinance plan.

**Motion to approve item 7.5 listed above.
Moved by Mrs. Eckenrode, seconded by Mr. Kraemer.
On a voice vote, the motion passes with 7-yes, 1-no, and 1-absent.**

7.6 The Superintendent recommends and I so move to approve the advertisement of bids for replacement of the High School's old Kitchen HVAC to be paid from the Capital Reserve Fund if bid award is approved.

**Motion to approve item 7.6 listed above.
Moved by Mr. Mazzarini, seconded by Mr. Choura.
On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.**

8.0 Public Comments ~ non-agenda items
• There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

9.0 Adjournment

**Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 8:44 p.m.
Moved by Mr. Choura, seconded by Mrs. Zeleznik.
On a voice vote, the motion passes unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,


Kim Borza
Board Secretary

Board of School Directors Roll Call Votes February 23, 2021			
The Superintendent recommends and I so move to deny the charter application submitted by Dogwood Charter School and to adopt the Resolution of the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District Denying the Charter Application Submitted by Dogwood Charter School.			
Dr. Mariano	Yes	Mr. Kopec	Absent
Mrs. Zeleznik	Yes	Mr. Kraemer	Yes
Mr. Choura	Yes	Mr. Mazzarini	Yes
Mrs. Eckenrode	Yes	Mrs. Murphy	Yes
Mr. Kearney	Yes		

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL DIRECTORS
OF CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT DENYING
THE CHARTER APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY
DOGWOOD CHARTER SCHOOL**

WHEREAS, the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District has received and reviewed an application for a charter school submitted by Dogwood Charter School pursuant to Section 1717-A(c) of the Charter School Law; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered the information, evidence and testimony presented by the Dogwood Charter School and by the District's Application Review Team; and

WHEREAS, the Board has reviewed and considered public comment submitted with regard to the application.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of School Directors of Chartiers Valley School District denies the application for a charter school submitted by Dogwood Charter School.

Based upon the criteria set forth in Section 1717-A(e)(2) of the Charter School Law and the other reasons set forth herein, the application is denied for deficiencies and exceptions including, but not limited to, the following:

- 1) It does not include evidence of demonstrated sustainable support, including but limited to not including evidence of demonstrated sustainable support by teachers, parents, other community members, and students.
- 2) It does not demonstrate the capability of the applicant, in terms of support and planning, to provide comprehensive learning experiences to students pursuant to the charter.
- 3) It does not consider and include all the information requested in Section 1719-A of the Charter School Law and it does not conform to the legislative intent outlined in Section 1702-A of the Charter School Law, as noted in the Application Review Team's findings and as is further set forth herein.
- 4) It does not exhibit adequate standards for school improvement planning; it models the Gillingham Charter School which has been in school improvement with the Commonwealth since 2016 for areas including lack of academic growth per PDE guidelines for multiple years consecutively and for student attendance rates not meeting state requirements.
- 5) It does not provide expanded choices beyond the types of education opportunities currently being offered and provided within the Chartiers Valley School District.
- 6) It fails to describe a complete and comprehensive curriculum that is aligned to state standards.
- 7) It fails to provide a continuum of services to meet the needs of all students, including students with disabilities, English language learners and at-risk students.
- 8) It fails to describe and provide an appropriate admissions policy or appropriate criteria for evaluating the admission of students in accordance with law;
- 9) It does not include a student code of conduct and fails to provide a description of the process for student suspensions and expulsion.

- 10) The proposed governance structure does not require the Sunshine Act be followed at all meetings, does not require that the Right to Know Law be followed, and does not require that the trustees file an annual Statement of Financial Interest as required under the Ethics Act.
- 11) It fails to provide for a comprehensive and equitable food service plan.
- 12) It fails to provide an adequate transportation plan.
- 13) It does not provide for appropriate operations management requirements, including but not limited to emergency preparedness, safety and security training and planning, and incident reporting.
- 14) It fails to adequately describe the mission and education goals of the school and to adequately describe and provide appropriate methods of assessing whether students are meeting educational goals.
- 15) The proposed charter is not financially viable.
- 16) It does not demonstrate that the charter can serve as a model for other public school districts.
- 17) It fails to provide information on the manner in which community groups will be involved in the charter school planning process and on procedures to review complaints of parents regarding the operation of the charter school.
- 18) It fails to provide the financial plan for the charter school and the provisions which will be made for auditing the school under Section 437 and fails to provide proposed faculty and a professional development plan for faculty of the charter school.
- 19) It fails to indicate whether any agreements have been entered into or plans developed with the local school district regarding participation of the charter school students in extracurricular activities within the district.
- 20) It fails to satisfy requirements concerning provision of reports of criminal history record information for all individuals who will have direct contact with students, fails to satisfy requirements concerning provision of official clearance statements as required by 23 Pa.C.S. Chapter 63 sub-Chapter (c)(2) for all individuals who will have direct contact with students, and fails to explain how the charter school will provide adequate liability and other appropriate insurance for the school, its employees and the board.

The application is denied for failing to conform to the legislative intent as set forth in Section 1702-A of the Charter School Law, including, but not limited to, a failure to:

- 1) Improve pupil learning.
- 2) Increase learning opportunities for all pupils.
- 3) Encourage the use of different and innovative teaching methods.
- 4) Provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in the types of educational opportunities that are available within the public school system.
- 5) Hold the school accountable for meeting measurable standards and provide the school with a method to establish accountability systems.

The application is denied for failing to meet the requirements set forth in Section 1715-A of the Charter School Law including, but not limited to the following:

- 1) A charter school shall be nonsectarian in all operations.

- 2) A charter school shall not provide any religious instruction, nor shall it display religious objects and symbols on the premises of the charter school.

The application is denied for failing to conform to the requirements of Section 1719-A, including, but not limited to, a failure to include a description and address of the legal facility in which the charter school will be located and the ownership thereof and any lease arrangements, that is in compliance with legal requirements applicable to the property. The location proposed is a single-family home in a residential neighborhood that is not zoned for use as a school and the home is not designed nor configured to meet applicable requirements for the operation of a school.


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Administration is hereby directed to provide written notice of the School Board's action to the applicant, the Department of Education, and the State Charter School Appeal Board consistent with Section 1717-A(e)(5) of the Charter School Law.

Duly adopted at a meeting held on the 23rd day of February, 2021.

ATTEST:

CHARTIERS VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

 2/23/2021
Kimberly Borza
Board Secretary


Darren G. Mariano
Board President