



**The Laboratory Charter School**  
of Communication and Languages

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2022**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
**Zoom Video Conference Meeting**

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Board Member Role Call

- A. Present: Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President; Norris Benns, Esq.- Vice President (Late), Karen Slade; Member; Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary;
- B. Others Present: Dr. Andréa Coleman-Hill, CEO; Alan Epstein, Attorney, Joan Belynda Brown, Director of Human Resources
- C. Absent: Pinkey Lucas, Treasurer

Announcement of Executive Session – Legal Discussions

An executive session was held on October 19, 2022 to discuss legal matters.

Nomination Committee Recommendation

None

Approval of Minutes: September 2022

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion: Norris Benns, Esq. Vice President Second: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President – Yes

Norris Benns, Esq.- Vice President-Yes

Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes

Karen Slade, Member – Yes

Approval of Minutes of the Special Board Meeting on October 12, 2022

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the October 12, 2022 meeting minutes.

Motion: Karen Slade, Member Second: Norris Benns, Esq.- Vice President

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President – Yes

Norris Benns, Esq.- Vice President-Yes

Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes

Karen Slade, Member – Yes

Unfinished Business

None

## New Business

### Finance Report

- After three (3) months of activity, Lab has a positive Cash Balance (\$584K) and a Net Income (Deficit) of -\$407K.
- Enrollment has declined from 689 to 454, impacting revenues and all aspects of the school's finances. \$2.9M in Federal funding will help, but cost reductions are essential.
- The school meets the standard (Green) on 3/5 financial indicators tracked by the SD of Philadelphia but is trending negatively due to the aforementioned issues.

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the finance report.

Motion: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary Second: Karen Slade, Member

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes

Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes

Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes

Karen Slade, Member – Yes

### CEO Report

#### COVID-19 Updates

Two staff members with COVID-19.

LAB Charter is continuing with the mask mandate for everyone as this is the safest route. LAB will also continue to provide At-home Covid tests for students.

#### Charter Renewal

All information for the renewal has been submitted to the School District of Philadelphia.

#### Legal

MJS: Pretrial memo setting forth the issues in the case, witnesses, exhibits, etc. will be submitted by October 19, 2022. For the facts and arguments the submission will be essentially recycling what has already been prepared in the MSJ. There will NOT be any actual trial preparation at this time as there has been no ruling on the motions submitted. There is no confirmation that the court will rule on the MSJ issue prior to the November 3<sup>rd</sup> Pretrial Conference.

#### Enrollment

- Enrollment has continued to decline with the uncertainty of the Charter Renewal.

## New Teacher Induction

- The annual new teacher induction series was postponed until October 29, 2022 for safety reasons due a possible storm related to hurricane IAN.
- This is a mandatory 60-hour series on effective teaching for all new teachers. The leadership team will present the in-class sessions one Saturday a month for 10 months. Teachers cannot become permanently certified without a certificate of completion from New Teacher Induction.

Motion: Karen Slade, Member Second: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes

Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes

Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes

Karen Slade, Member – Yes

## Board Resolutions

### Common Consent Agenda

#### 1. 101920220

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the adoption of an agreement with the School District of Philadelphia to renew its Charter.

Comment from Attorney Alan Epstein: This meeting was published in the Philadelphia Inquirer and on the website this week with information on joining the meeting.

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the Common Consent Agenda

Motion: Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President, Second: Karen Slade, Member

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes

Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes

Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes

Karen Slade, Member – Yes

VIII. Public Participation: None

IX. Adjournment

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

Motion: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary Second: Norris Bennis Esq., Vice-President

Each member voted as follows:  
Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes  
Norris Bennis, Vice President – Yes  
Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary – Yes  
Karen Slade, Member – Yes

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date