



The Laboratory Charter School
of Communication and Languages

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 17, 2024

6:00 p.m.

Zoom Video Conference Meeting

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2314020168?pwd=bVAvaVlVVV1E1cFFHWGY5NTArSVVGOT09>

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:03pm.

Board Member Role Call

- A. Present: Dr. Veronica Florence-McPherson, President; Norris Bennis, Esq.- Vice President, Pinkey Lucas, Member, Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member, Karen Slade, Member
- B. Absent: Tiffany Ferrell, Secretary, Elbert Sampson, Treasurer
- C. Non-Board Members: Dr. Andréa Coleman-Hill, CEO; Alan Epstein, Attorney, Joan Belynda Brown, Director of Human Resources, Jesse Bean, Charter Choices
- D. Others Present: None

Announcement of Executive Session

An executive session was held on January 17, 2024 to discuss legal and personnel matters.

Nomination Committee Recommendation

None

Approval of Minutes:

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to approve the November 2023 meeting minutes.

Motion: Pinkey Lucas, Member Second, Karen Slade, Member

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes
Karen Slade, Member - Yes

Unfinished Business: Amended Bylaws Statement on Extension of Board Members
And Subsequent Amendment of Bylaws

During the COVID-19 Global Pandemic The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees made the decision to extend the terms of two Board Members as the Global Pandemic presented barriers to the recruitment of new Board Members. After the Global COVID-19 Pandemic ended, the Board of Trustees voted to officially amend the Bylaws in an effort to avoid future barriers. The appropriate amendments were made to the LAB Charter Bylaws and affirmed at the September 2023 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

New Business:

Finance Report

- Cash has increased to \$1M since June 30 due to receipt of nearly \$1.3M in Federal Grant funds.
- FY24 Net Income at DEC 31 = -\$1M (Deficit), projected to improve to (\$34K) Deficit at 06.30.2024.
- School currently meets or approaches standard in 3/5 CSO-tracked metrics.

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

Motion: Mr. Norris Bennis, Esq., Vice-President Second: Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes
Karen Slade, Member - Yes

CEO Report

Charter School Trustee Refresher Training

The Pennsylvania Department of Education offers Charter Schools Board of Trustees Training so that Trustees can be refreshed at least annually on the responsibilities and expectations of Trustees. These training links are a refresher to the Act 55 training. This online training covers the following topics:

1. Instruction and Academic Programs
2. Personnel
3. Governance
4. Operations
5. Fiscal Management
6. Ethics, Open Meetings, and Regulations

<https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/Governance/Act55/Pages/Charter-School-Trustees-Training.aspx>

City Council Testimony

On December 6, 2023 Dr. Coleman-Hill, CEO testified at the Philadelphia City Council Hearing on the Ballard Spahr Independent Investigation into the bias treatment of Black Founded and Led Charter Schools. The testimony is included in the Board packet. Thank you to those Board Members who were able to log on to witness the testimony. This testimony as well as the advocacy of the African American Charter Schools Coalition in getting the independent investigation completed is starting to bring about positive change for Black Founded and Led Charter Schools.

Lab Charter Mission, Vision, and Core Values

The Laboratory Charter School Mission, Vision and Core Values included in the Board Packet. This information can also be found on the Laboratory Charter School website.

Renewal Site Visit February 8, 2024

During the renewal site visit, the Charter Schools Office is requesting that at least 3 Board Members be present at the Sedgley Campus for the day (typically 9-2). In preparation LAB Charter had to submit a Mission and Educational Plan Form which is included in the Board packet.

Education Scholarship Tour 2024

Dr. Coleman-Hill received an invitation to apply for an educational scholarship tour to Japan and the de-militarized zone of South Korea for 12 days in July 2024. The application was completed and Dr. Coleman-Hill received an interview. Official notification will be made in February 2024 for all participants selected. All information is included in the Board packet. Board members are welcome to apply. All expenses, with the exception of spending money, are paid through the scholarship.

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

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

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes
Karen Slade, Member - Yes

Board Resolutions

Common Consent Agenda

1. 011720241

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the Resolution Affirming the Decision to Extend the Term of Two Board Members During the Global COVID-19 Pandemic and to Subsequently Amend the Laboratory Charter Bylaws in order to avoid future barriers to recruitment in the case of Global Pandemics, Natural Disasters, War, or any other such Global or National Disasters as presented.

2. 011720242

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the final 2023 Independent Audit as presented.

3. 011720243

The Laboratory Charter School Board of Trustees (“Board”) hereby resolves to approve the Pennsylvania Department of Education Flexible Instructional Days Template as presented.

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

Motion: Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member, Second: Mrs. Pinkey Lucas, Member

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President – Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member – Yes
Karen Slade, Member - Yes

Public Participation: None

Adjournment

Motion duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn.

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

Each member voted as follows:

Dr. Veronica Florence- McPherson, President - Yes
Norris Bennis Esq., Vice President - Yes
Pinkey Lucas, Member - Yes
Dr. Linda Cliatt-Wayman, Member - Yes
Karen Slade, Member - Yes



Board Secretary Signature

2/21/24

Date