

**Board of Trustees Meeting for
Pennsylvania Distance Learning Charter School**
2605 Nicholson Road, Suite 4100, Sewickley, PA 15143
Telephone: (888) 997-3352 Facsimile: (866) 977-3527
Website: www.padistance.org

Board Meeting

Date: June 26, 2023
Time: 3:00 pm
Location: PA Distance Learning Charter School and via
Teleconference at 888.988.2893, access 73527

MINUTES

MEETING TYPE: Regular Special Proposed Approved

A. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Board Member Attendance:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------------|
| John Marous, President | xPresent - phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| William Donahue, Vice President | xPresent - phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Stephen Cantanzarite, Trustee | xPresent - phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |

Other Attendees:

| | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Michael Leiterra, CEO, PDLCS | xPresent | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Aubrey Ploesch, Elementary Principal, PDLCS | xPresent-phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Kelly Crooks, Chief Academic Officer, PDLCS | <input type="checkbox"/> Present | x Absent |
| Kimberly Crandall, MS Principal, PDLCS | <input type="checkbox"/> Present | x Absent |
| Michael Whisman, Charter Choices | xPresent -phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Nicholas Kocuba, Chief Operating Officer, PDLCS | x Present-phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Charles Mort, HS Principal, PDLCS | <input type="checkbox"/> Present | x Absent |
| Dean Pappaterra, Chief Compliance Officer, PDLCS | xPresent | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Stephanie Faith, Special Education Co., PDLCS | xPresent | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Leigh Anne Lord, Recording Secretary, PDLCS | xPresent | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Sheryl Allmon, Procurement Coordinator, PDLCS | xPresent | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |
| Tracey Colbert, Teacher, PDLCS | xPresent -phone | <input type="checkbox"/> Absent |

C. Pledge of Allegiance

D. Public Comment: none

E. Review of Agenda

F. Standard Business

i. Meeting Minutes of May 9, 2023 Board Meeting

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Board Meeting.
Mr. Donahue made the motion; Mr. Marous seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 2

Opposed: 0

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G. New Business

i. SY23-24 School Performance Team Project

Dr. Leitera presented a proposal prepared by School Frontiers, which has been designed to strengthen the school's understanding of assessment results and to build teams skilled in accessing and using data to help our students develop mastery across core academic standards. The cost of the project will be \$65,000 with an anticipated completion date of the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Mr. Marous indicated that this was a necessary program given our current test scores and our position with PDE. After his review, Mr. Donahue agreed that it was a necessary course of action.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve the School Performance Team Project. Mr. Donahue made the motion; Mr. Catanzarite joined the meeting during this discussion. Mr. Marous seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

ii. Fund Balance Allocation

Mr. Whisman provided information regarding charter school and, specifically, cyber charter school proposed funding which will be voted upon in the upcoming days. The original Fund Balance Resolution was to commit an additional \$1,200,643 of the General Fund Balance to offset anticipated future district rate reductions. After discussion, Mr. Marous proposed that an additional \$500,000 be committed and this amount should be committed for future operational needs.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to modify and approve the Fund Balance Resolution thereby committing an additional \$1,700,643 of the General Fund balance for a total committed balance of \$11,250,000 of which \$7,509,469 is committed for future operational needs. Mr. Donahue made the motion – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

iii. SY 2023 – 2024 Budget

Mr. Whisman indicated that there were no specific changes to the budget from its presentation in May, with the exception of the School Performance Team Project. He stressed that the budget would be reconsidered in the Fall as the State budget would be approved in mid-May and may require adjustments to the school budget if the current bill being discussed in the Education Committee is approved by the House and Senate. This bill would implement a flat rate for regular education students enrolled in cyber charter schools and a tiered rate for special education students and could have serious funding ramifications in future years for all cyber charter schools.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve the budget with changes voted upon previously with the School Performance Team Project and the Fund Balance Allocation. Mr. Donahue made the motion; Mr. Marous seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

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iv. Comprehensive School Improvement Plan 2023-2024

Dr. Leitera indicated that there were no further adjustments to the CSI Plan. The Plan was posted for public comment for thirty days; no comments were received. He did update the Board indicating that the School had met with our CSI facilitators and outlined the School Frontiers proposal with them. The facilitators expressed an opinion that the project works in synergy with the CSI Plan and indicated their full support.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve the 2023-2024 Comprehensive School Improvement Plan. Mr. Donahue made the motion; Mr. Marous seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

v. Safety and Security Coordinator Report

Mr. Kocuba outlined the 2022-2023 School Safety Program and announced that there were no safety incidents during this school year. The goals for the 2023-2024 school year would be to provide expanded resources to staff, and continue safety related training sessions in accordance with Act 55.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve the Safety and Security Coordinator Report as presented. Mr. Catanzarite made the motion; Mr. Donahue seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

vi. Student Resolution No. 143-22

Mr. Marous indicated that the student resolution had been reviewed and asked Dr. Leitera if he had any additional comments. Dr. Leitera indicated that the highlights of the settlement were in the best interest of the student and the school.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve Student Resolution No. 143-22. Mr. Donahue made the motion; Mr. Marous seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

vii. Title IX Policy Update

Mr. Pappaterra presented an update to the Title IX Policy which was recommended by legal counsel. The policy update would provide for a live hearing and in the absence of a live hearing the school would provide involved parties equal opportunity to submit relevant, written questions to each other, before the school would reach a determination of responsibility.

Mr. Marous asked for a motion to approve the policy updated as proposed. Mr. Donahue made the motion; Mr. Catanzarite seconded – so moved.

Ayes: 3

Opposed: 0

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H. Reminder of Next Board Meeting

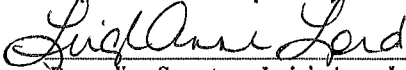
To be held at the Pennsylvania Distance Learning Charter School and by teleconference on September 11, 2023.

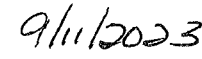
I. Executive Session (if necessary)

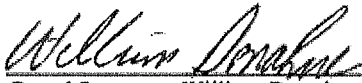
The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.


MINUTES CERTIFICATION

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted.


Recording Secretary, Leigh Anne Lord


Date


Board Secretary, William Donahue


Date