

**Philadelphia Hebrew Public (PHPCS) Board of Trustees Meeting**

December 11, 2023

5:30 PM

**3300 Henry Avenue and Virtually via Zoom**

**Minutes**

**Trustees Present**

**Trustees Not Present**

Klissa Thomas	Hedra Packman
Keli McLoyd	Jon Rosenberg
Daniel Bell	Max Weisman
Katy Tipson	

**Also Present**

Emily Hurst; Executive Director, Philadelphia Hebrew Public (PHPCS)

Madison Gould; Senior Director of Regional Operations, Hebrew Public

Danny House; Director of Operations, Philadelphia Hebrew Public (PHPCS)

Soren Barnett; Operations Coordinator, Philadelphia Hebrew Public (PHPCS)

**I. Call to Order & Adoption of Agenda.**

Klissa Thomas called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Daniel Bell moved to approve the meeting agenda. Keli McLoyd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**II. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2023**

Klissa Thomas made a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Katy Tipson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**III. Leadership Reports**

1. Madison Gould, Senior Director of Regional Operations, presented Enrollment Update
  - a. Seven students withdrew - primarily moved or live far from PHP.
  - b. Current trend is nearing enrollment cap number so we will likely need to make offers in January 2024
  - c. Student retention at this point in the year is stronger than last year
2. Madison Gould, Senior Director of Regional Operations, presented

### Attendance Update

- a. Currently at 91.6% average daily attendance, with 48% of students meeting the goal
  - b. Friday attendance is a significant challenge, as well as recent absences due to Pop-Warner competitions and holiday travel
  - c. Accessing resources through Project Go has also been a challenge in addressing our attendance improvement
3. Emily Hurst, Executive Director, presented PSSA Data
- a. Presentation of PSSA data compared to Annual Charter Evaluation “Similar Schools Group” from 2022-23. Noting that we (and many other charters) disagree with the composition of the group based on flawed metrics (this is only a comparison of 5 schools, some of which aren’t even within the defined ranges for similar schools). PHP leadership has connected with the CSO on the concerns with the SSGs and particularly how they disadvantage growing schools.
  - b. PHP experienced schoolwide growth in ELA from 22% to 27.5% of student at or above proficient, yet a slight decline in Math proficiency from 17.7% to 16.8%. Noting that we have a long way to go and are outperforming many of our peer schools.
  - c. As a founding school, these are baseline data for our students who are taking the test for the first time. We only have one cohort of 50 students (4<sup>th</sup> graders during the 2022-23 school year) who have taken the test multiple years in a row to track growth. Of these students, the cohort grew from 20.9% to 25.6% in ELA proficiency and from 16.3% to 18.6% in Math. This is a positive trend and the data that is more valuable in informing how PHP targets student growth
  - d. With a dramatic increase staff stability this year and significant preparation we anticipate accelerated growth moving forward.
4. Emily Hurst, Executive Director, presented discipline data year to date with relative historical data as well as data by student subgroup.
- a. We see in the data both the impact of setting clear expectations with students and families and the power of some of our strategic plan initiatives this year.
5. Emily Hurst, Executive Director, presented Charter Renewal
- a. Schools are evaluated on Academic Success, Organizational Organization, and Financial Sustainability,
  - b. Presented ACE Winter Preview on Organizational Compliance. Only major flag was lack of dental exam records for a few students within the right timeframe during the 2022-23 school year. Operations team has already put a plan in place to increase dental interventions even more to ensure compliance moving forward.

6. Emily Hurst, Executive Director, presented EITC - Fundraising
  - a. PA legislature increased the available EIO tax credits this year. Please send applicable materials to networks who may qualify.
7. Emily Hurst, Executive Director, presented Festival of the Holidays
  - a. Will be an exciting family event that celebrates several Winter holidays and holidays from around the world that celebrate the theme of light on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us!
8. Madison Gould, Senior Director of Regional Operations, presented the Finance Report
  - a. Revenue - enrollment is at 479 (PHP gets paid for 468)
  - b. Expenditures – October showed a positive balance, with a few substitute teachers from an agency paid for with funds from staff vacancies
  - c. Benchmarks are all strong
  - d. Priorities: Updating FPP, sunset ESSER funds at the end of the year, January 2024 visit the Office of Auditing Services at SDP.
  - e. 2023 Financial Audit: Unqualified opinion with a clean audit!

#### **IV. Board Reports**

1. Klissa Thomas, Board Chair, presented the Network Evaluation
  - a. The Executive Committee convened to review the Hebrew Public’s self-evaluation, PHP’s evaluation of the network, and finalize the evaluation based on the rubric included in the management agreement.

#### **V. Board Actions**

1. Approval of Network Evaluation (Schedule C)
  - a. Daniel Bell made a motion to approve the Network Evaluation (Schedule C). Keli McLoyd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. Approval of Finance Report (Schedule D)
  - a. Daniel Bell made a motion to approve the Finance Report (Schedule D). Keli McLoyd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
3. Approval of FY23 Financial Audit (Schedule E)
  - a. Katy Tipson made a motion to approve the FY23 Financial Audit (Schedule E). Keli McLoyd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
4. Approval of Policy for Students Experiencing Homelessness (Schedule F)
  - a. During the tri-annual McKinney-Vento audit, PHP received the highest score in implementing the law with 90-100% fidelity
  - b. PHP is adopting the School District’s Policy 25I under our own title, which reflects what we have been doing and what the auditors will look at
  - c. Amend PHP’s policy to clarify the “District liaison” vs the “district” - language as noted by Madison Gould.

- d. Klissa Thomas made a motion to approve the Policy for Students Experiencing Homelessness (Schedule F), upon the amendment as noted by Madison Gould. Katy Tipson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- 5. Approval of Talent Search Firm Contracts (Schedule G)
  - a. Daniel Bell made a motion to approve two contracts with Edgility to run searches for the Assistant Head of School and Director of Global Studies given the unique and pivotal nature of these roles. (Schedule G). Keli McLoyd seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- 6. Approval of Related Service Provider Contract (Schedule H)
  - a. Klissa Thomas made a motion to approve the Related Service Provider Contract with Aspire (Schedule H). Katy Tipson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **VI. Public Comment**

None.

#### **VII. Executive Session**

Board convened executive session to discuss confidential personnel and legal matters.

#### **VIII. Closing and Adjournment**

Klissa Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:42pm. Keli McLoyd seconded.