



**Note:** These Board Minutes are not yet approved and will be reviewed and voted upon at the next Board meeting on April 22, 2021.

**March Meeting Minutes for the  
Board of Trustees of DC Scholars Public Charter School (DCSPCS)**

Thursday, March 25, 2021

4:30 – 6:30 pm via Zoom

<https://dcscholars-org.zoom.us/j/97008427638?pwd=d1Rvc1VYN2VneExPc2xZZk1mOW1qQT09>

**Board Members Present:** Bob Weinberg, Robert Patterson, Erica Jackson, Jackie Lendsey, Andrew Ellenbogen, Porchia Nixon, Evan Piekara, Maegan Marcano, Janelle Suggs (4:35 pm), Crystal Williams (4:40 pm), Tiffianne Hudnall (5:00 pm).

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Business Manager Emily Stone, Head of School Amy Helms (4:33 pm), Executive Director Jennifer Leonard (4:34 pm).

**Other:** Carrie Irvin, CEO of Education Board Partners.

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review
  - a. Mr. Weinberg called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm after taking roll call to determine the presence of a quorum.
- II. Chair Updates
  - a. Mr. Weinberg introduced Education Board Partners CEO Carrie Irvin and announced her observation of the meeting today.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
  - a. February 25, 2021 Minutes  
Ms. Marcano made a motion to approve the February 25, 2021 Minutes. Ms. Jackson seconded. Mr. Weinberg conducted a rollcall vote. The motion was approved.
- IV. Head of School Committee Report
  - a. Mr. Weinberg provided an oral report about the Head of School Committee.
- V. Development Committee Report
  - a. Ms. Marcano provided an oral report about the recent Development Committee meeting and the results of that meeting. Discussion followed.
- VI. Academics Committee Report



a. Ms. Jackson displayed the Data Dashboard and a discussion followed.

VII. Governance Committee Report

a. Ms. Williams provided an oral report about the Committee Goals Tracker.  
Discussion followed.

VIII. Finance Committee Report

a. Approval of Contracts

i. Leonard & Associates Contract Amendment

1. Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Weinberg explained the reasons for the contract amendment.

a. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**

Mr. Weinberg outlined the steps the Board and staff took in June 2020 to ensure the original contract was awarded fairly, including posting a public notification for the Sole Source contract, reviewing and negotiating a scope of work, and reviewing compensation for similar roles at other DC charter schools. The proposed contract amendment is for Leonard and Associates to continue fulfilling two executive positions at DC Scholars – Executive Director and Director of Finance and Operations.

b. Mr. Weinberg shared that when the contract was awarded and now, there was not a financially feasible way for the school to fill both the Executive Director and Director of Finance and Operations roles in SY20-21 with one person through a request for proposals. It was and continues to be financially burdensome to the school to train someone new to conduct the services provided by Ms. Leonard.

c. Mr. Weinberg disclosed that since Jennifer Leonard is the current Executive Director and key personnel of school in SY20-21 and she was the Executive Director when the contract was awarded, she is a conflicting interest party.

d. The Board acknowledged and waived the Conflict of Interest to proceed with this contract amendment.

2. After discussion, Mrs. Leonard recused herself from the meeting. Ms. Lendsey made a motion to approve the Leonard & Associates Contract Amendment. Mr. Piekara seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a rollcall vote. The motion was approved.

ii. CareFirst Renewal

1. After discussion, Mr. Piekara made a motion to approve the CareFirst Renewal Contract. Ms. Lendsey seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a rollcall vote. The motion was approved.

b. January 2021 Close Financials



- i. Mr. Ellenbogen provided an oral update and discussed the school's financials provided in the packet.

IX. Head of School's Report

- a. Ms. Helms provided an oral Head of School's Report accompanied by exhibits related to the DC PCSB 10 Year Review, student attendance and academic data, SY21-22 Staffing Model, SY21-22 Organization charts, April Reopening Plans, and Instructional Recovery Planning for SY21-22.
- b. Ms. Helms responded to questions from the Board.

X. Closing

- a. Mr. Weinberg thanked the Board members for their participation. Ms. Lendsey made a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Jackson seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a rollcall vote. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:38 pm.

*This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at [opengovoffice@dc.gov](mailto:opengovoffice@dc.gov).*

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