



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

Thursday, April 28, 2022

4:30 pm via Zoom

Board Members Present: Bob Weinberg, Crystal Williams, Jackie Lendsey, Evan Piekara (until 6:00 pm), Shantania Williams, Robert Patterson (until 5:50 pm), Tikia Thompson (until 6:04 pm), Andrew Ellenbogen (4:50 pm), Laura Fitzgerald (5:00 pm), Maegan Marcano (5:00 pm).

Board Members Absent: Janelle Suggs.

Guests: Vickie Ho (EdOps), Dionne Dabelow (EdOps) until 6:10 pm.

DC Scholars Staff Present: Business Manager Emily Stone (until 6:10 pm), Executive Coach Jennifer Leonard (until 6:10 pm), Head of School Amy Helms (until 6:10 pm).

- I. Welcome and Agenda Review
 - a. Mr. Weinberg called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm after taking roll call to determine the presence of a quorum.

- II. Chair Updates
 - a. Mr. Weinberg introduced the new parent board member Ms. Tikia Thompson.
 - b. Ms. Thompson introduced herself to the Board and members of the Board and DC Scholars and EdOps staff introduced themselves.

- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - a. March 24, 2022 Meeting
 - i. Ms. Lendsey made a motion to approve the March 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes. Mr. Patterson seconded. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.
 - b. April 20, 2022 Action with Meeting
 - i. Ms. Lendsey made a motion to approve the April 20, 2022 Action without Meeting Minutes. Mr. Piekara seconded. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

- IV. Governance Committee Report
 - a. The Governance Committee Chair Ms. C. Williams made an oral presentation on the Cognia Monitoring Visit. Discussion followed.

Agenda items V. Academic Committee Report and VI. Finance Committee Report were moved to later in the meeting to allow for the participation of those committee chairs.



- V. Head of School's Report
 - α. Ms. Helms provided a verbal report on the following:
 - i. Cognia Accreditation Monitoring Visit;
 - ii. OSSE ESSER Visit;
 - iii. PCSB 10 Year Improvement Plan;
 - iv. SY22-23 Staff Retention & Hiring;
 - v. Leadership Pipeline;
 - vi. SY22-23 Enrollment Targets;
 - vii. A preview of upcoming Priorities, including SY22-23 strategic planning, End of Year (EOY) student testing and events, and EOY Evaluations, and summer Extended School Year and July Professional Development.
 - b. Ms. Helms responded to questions and comments from the Board.

- VI. Academic Committee Report
 - α. The Academic Committee Chair Ms. Fitzgerald provided an oral report for the Academic Committee meeting materials included in the packet.

- VII. Finance Committee Report
 - α. February 2022 Financials

Mr. Ellenbogen provided an overview of the February 2022 financials included in the board materials. Discussion followed.

 - b. Vote for Approval
 - i. Rodney Smith Invoice
 - 1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Mr. Ellenbogen disclosed that Rodney Smith is the spouse of school leader Melissa Smith, and as such he is considered a conflicting interest party. Mr. Ellenbogen and Mr. Weinberg reported that the school entered this agreement in violation of the policies outlined in the school's Financial Policy Manual. Mr. Ellenbogen outlined that after the order was placed, the school conducted a fair market value analysis and concluded that the contract was a fair price.
 - 2. Vote for Approval

Mr. Weinberg stated that under the circumstances, the goods having already been delivered and accepted, the Board should acknowledge but not waive the Conflict of Interest to proceed with approving this invoice and report the matter to the DC Public Charter School Board. On those premises, Mr. Weinberg made a motion to approve the Rodney Smith Invoice. Ms. S. Williams seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

 - ii. Leonard & Associates Amendment 01
 - 1. Conflict of Interest Disclosure



Mr. Ellenbogen disclosed that Jennifer Leonard served as Executive Director of DC Scholars PCS during school years 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21. She is considered a conflicting interest party in connection with the Leonard & Associates contract. Mr. Weinberg outlined that the rate billed by Jennifer Leonard will remain the same for the Amendment 01 as the original agreement. DC Scholars conducted a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the original contract, which was awarded in June 2021. Mr. Weinberg stated that Board should acknowledge and waive the Conflict of Interest to proceed with this contract.

2. Vote for Approval

Mrs. Leonard was recused from the meeting.

At the recommendation of the Finance Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Ellenbogen made a motion to approve the Leonard & Associates Amendment 01. Mr. Weinberg seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

iii. SY22-23 Budget Presentation

1. Mr. Ellenbogen provided a verbal report of the Budget Presentation included in the board materials. Discussion followed.

VIII. Head of School Committee Report: Executive Session

- a. Pursuant to DC Code §2-575), Mr. Weinberg made a motion to move the meeting to a closed session to discuss a personnel matter at 6:10 pm.
- b. All DC Scholars and EdOps staff were recused from the meeting at this point.

DC Code §2-575(b)(10), a portion of an Open Meeting may be closed "to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation, compensation, discipline, demotion, removal, or resignation of ... public charter school personnel, where the public body is the board of trustees of a public charter school."

c. Vote for Approval

At the recommendation of the Head of School Committee, and after discussion, Mr. Weinberg made a motion to approve a bonus for Ms. Helms for this school year 2021-22. Ms. Lendsey seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved.

IX. Closing

- a. Mr. Weinberg made a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Lendsey seconded the motion. Mr. Weinberg conducted a roll call vote. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:27 PM.
- b. Mr. Weinberg thanked the board members for their participation.

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 open.govoffice@dc.gov.