

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ELYSIAN CHARTER BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 21, 2020

A Special Session of the Elysian Charter School of Hoboken Board of Trustees was held on Friday, August 21 2020 via ZOOM video conference at 5:30 p.m.

Sunshine statement: Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised on Thursday, August 20, 2020. Notice of the meeting was published in the Public Notice Section of the Jersey Journal and to the Public posted on the Elysian Charter School website at www.ecsnj.org and at the Elysian Charter School located at 1460 Garden Street, Hoboken, NJ, 07030.

Call to Order by Board Chair -

I. Roll Call

Voting Members	Role	Present	Absent
Chris DeFilippis	Chair	x	
Brian Blake	Vice-Chair		x
Daniel Glynn	Treasurer	x	
Andrea O'Connor	Trustee	x	
Maria Badali	Trustee	x	
Diane Sasso	Trustee	x	
Erin Curtiss	Trustee	x	
Michael Gazaleh	Trustee	x	
Jaime Marchand	Trustee	x	

Non - Voting Members	Role	Present	Absent
Susan Grierson	Director	x	
Diane M Macon	Business Manager	x	
Lauren Barker	Faculty Representative	x	
Samantha Leone	Faculty Representative	x	

I. Public Comment

The meeting is open to the public for comment on items on or off the agenda.
(Limited to 5 minutes per person).

Chris DeFilippis, Board Chair, opened the meeting by presenting a recap of the re-opening plan as it was submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education and to our community. He reiterated that several surveys were sent out to the Elysian community to ensure that everyone's voice was heard. He then gave a recap of the Zoom call that was held on August 20th with the Elysian staff and shared the concerns that many of the staff had upon returning to in-person teaching in early September.

We had over 100 parents in attendance on the Zoom Board Meeting with many of them weighing in on their feelings on the school's reopening on September 8th. Many of them were in full support and agreement with the teachers to push the in-person teaching to a later start date in September once they have had an opportunity to better prepare for the hybrid teaching model and, at the same time, ensure that our local numbers of Covid cases remains low making it safe for an in-person return. There were also a large number of parents who felt that we should seize this "window of opportunity" when the local numbers are so low to give the students an opportunity to start off the school year in person and meet their teachers not knowing if this would have to change in the future. Still other parents shared their concerns over the quality of remote teaching this past Spring and wanted assurances that the teachers were better prepared for virtual teaching this Fall. Several parents who had opted for all remote learning in the Fall shared their concern that their children would not be getting the same attention and services as those who chose the hybrid model.

Following are the names of Elysian staff and parents who spoke (in chronological order) during the Public Comment:

Melissa Landera	Dan Vassallo
Ashley Katz	Oliver Esslinger
Rachel Katell	Mackenzie Cashman
Masha Golubchik	Darcy Peterka
Frank Giallombardo	Angela Dunkley
Michael Gazaleh	Devon Maggio
Brendan Phalen	Adriana Pacheco
Melanie Kaye	Stephanie Gaasterland
Vaidehi Naik	Masha Pashkina
Nir Sandbank	Rebecca Jennings
Jason Greenberg	Kim Allen
Abra Kessler	Cecilia Bejar
Jason Hayes	Jamie Marchand
Erin Curtiss	Nick Passarelli
Leah Oppenzato	Eduardo Gonzalez
Karen Seeman	Wasim Choudhury
Cathy Berger	Darcy Minsky
Danny Spiegel	David Mello
Milly Lee	Melissa Rosenfeld
Malki Mori	Kevin Quist
Diane Murray	Regan Michaels

Many other parents shared their thoughts in the "Chat" section of the Zoom meeting.

II. Discussion of Elysian Charter School Reopening Plan

III. Adjournment into Executive Session

The Board of Trustees of the Elysian Charter School hereby adjourns to Executive Session in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, *N.J.S.A. 10:4-7 et seq.*, for the reason(s) identified below. The minutes of the discussion during Executive Session will be available to the public when such minutes have been approved by the Board of Trustees pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 47:1A-1.1* and the need for confidentiality no longer exists.

1. School Reopening/Personnel

Motion to move into Executive Closed Session – Closing of public session. Time: 8:28 pm

Voting Members	Motion	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chris DeFilippis		x				Diane Sasso	1	x			
Brian Blake					x	Erin Curtiss	2	x			
Daniel Glynn		x				Michael Gazaleh		x			
Andrea O'Connor		x				Jaime Marchand		x			
Maria Badali		x									

Close of Executive Session - Adjournment of Meeting August 21, 2020 – Time 9:55 pm

Voting Members	Motion	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent	Voting Members	Motion	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Chris DeFilippis		x				Diane Sasso		x			
Brian Blake					x	Erin Curtiss		x			
Daniel Glynn		x				Michael Gazaleh		x			
Andrea O'Connor	2	x				Jaime Marchand		x			
Maria Badali	1	x									