

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES – Tuesday, February 23, 2021

A Public Session of the Elysian Charter School of Hoboken Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 via Zoom video conference at 6:30 p.m.

Sunshine statement: Pursuant to Section 5 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised as directed by resolution adopted April 28, 2020. Notice of the meeting was published in the Public Notice Section of the Jersey Journal, 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	
Abra Kessler	Faculty Representative	x	
Regan Michaels	Faculty Representative	x	

Motion for Elysian Charter Board of Trustees to accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting January 26, 2020

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

2. Director's Report (see attached)

3. Faculty Representative's Report

Faculty Representatives - (Regan Michaels & Abra Kessler)

Regan Michaels, on behalf of the teachers, expressed her thanks to Roberto Rosa for his work with the tech upgrade and for keeping them updated on any issues. She also expressed thanks to Derrick Ladson for his work on the community meeting which was enjoyed by all. Regan also expressed the staff's concerns about the 10 year salary freeze and shared that the staff is looking to the Board in hopes that this will be addressed.

4. Presentation of Committee Report

Academic Committee – Diane Sasso, Chair – In Diane Sasso's absence, Board Chair Chris DeFilippis gave the report. The committee is presently looking for opportunities to extend the teaching day beyond the K and 1st grade classes, and they are hoping to soon have the 2nd grade classes extend until 2 pm as well. The committee is also investigating the possibility of adding an additional day to in-person instruction each week beyond the K classes. We are awaiting guidance from both the CDC and State on the necessary guidelines that would need to be followed (ie room set up, distance requirements) in anticipation of more students returning to in-person learning.

Nominating Committee – Maria Badali, Chair. It has been a challenging time to ask people to step up and consider running for the open seats on the Board. Although we do have three (3) candidates running for the three open trustee spots, we are still required to hold a (virtual) Annual Meeting. The virtual Annual Meeting will be held on March 9th and voting for the open Board seats will be done via Google Forms. A meet and greet will be held prior to the meeting date so that staff and the community can meet and ask questions of the candidates.

Personnel Committee – Andrea O'Connor, Chair. The committee has been having discussions with both the finance committee and the Business Manager about awarding salary increases to the staff. They want to assure the staff that it is being addressed and hope to share an update shortly.

5. Public Comment

The meeting is open to the public for comment on items on or off the agenda.

(Limited to 5 minutes per person).

Parent, Nathalie Crews, expressed her appreciation for the hard work that the teachers have been doing and wanted to know what the school plan was moving forward in hopes that all students can return to in person learning. She wanted to know how the parent community can help and how they can expect to receive updates as decisions are being made.

Upon recommendation of the Director of Elysian Charter School the following resolutions are presented for approval:

6. Finance:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11(a)4, the Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the secretary's certification, and after review of the monthly financial report (appropriations section) certifies that, to the best of its knowledge, as of December 15, 2020, no major account or fund has been over expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2,11(b), and that sufficient funds are available to meet the school's financial obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- 6.1 Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Payroll Report of January 15, 2021 in the amount of \$138,115.94.
- 6.2 Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Payroll Report of January 29, 2021 in the amount of \$138,864.41.
- 6.3 Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the February Check Register from January 23, 2021 February 22, 2021 in the amount of \$231,435.33.
- 6.4 Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary and Treasurer Reports for December 2020 as per attached.

Roll Call Vote Resolutions 6-1 – 6-4

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	1	x			
Daniel Glynn		x				Michael Gazaleh		x			
Andrea O'Connor		x				Jaime Marchand	2	x			
Maria Badali		x									

6.5 The State of New Jersey Department of Education permutes requests for waiver of the SEMI program in school districts with 40 or fewer Special Education/Medicaid eligible students in the 2021/22 fiscal year. Upon recommendation by the Director, we will apply for a waiver given that Elysian Charter has a projected Medicaid-Eligible/Special Education student count of 3 and the application would not be cost-effective for the school; Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Elysian Charter School hereby authorizes submission of the SEMI FY22 waiver request attached.

Roll Call Vote Resolutions 6-5

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	2	x			
Andrea O'Connor		x				Jaime Marchand		x			
Maria Badali	1	x									

7. Personnel:

8. Governance/Policy:

8.1 Resolved that the Board of Trustees of the Elysian Charter School hereby approves the following Candidates who applied to run for three open Board member seats and whose names be submitted to the Elysian Charter School's membership for election at the Annual Meeting to be held on March 9, 2021.

Roll Call Vote Resolutions 8-1

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

9. Curriculum/Special Education:

10. Facilities:

11. Miscellaneous:

12. New Business

Roll Call Vote - Adjournment of Meeting of Tuesday, February 23, 2021 – Time: 7:05 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									