

Academy Board of Trustees  
 PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
 February 20th, 2025

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Philadelphia Academy Charter School  
 Virtual Meeting

MEETING TYPE:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Regular	<input type="radio"/> Special
MINUTES TYPE:	<input type="radio"/> Proposed	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Approved

**I. Call To Order**

Steve Pawlowski called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Roll Call**

Board Member Attendance:

Cathy Adams	Member	Present
Kim Burns	Vice President	Present
Jacqui Makowski	Member	Present
Elizabeth O'Connell	Member	Present
Stephen Pawlowski	President	Present
James Smith	Secretary	Absent
Robert Sullivan	Treasurer	Present

Other Attendees: Douglas Robinson, Principal PACS; Angela Pazdunkiewicz, Principal PACHS; Jeneen Vendetti, Director of Specialized Student Services; Steve Chiara/ Joe Zampirri Facilities; Brian Beudet Security; Transportation Claire Torres

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## Philadelphia Academy Charter School

11000 Roosevelt Blvd.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19116

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competed in the Philadelphia Public League Championship today- I just received news that they were unsuccessful- however, we are still very proud of them for making it this far. Senior Oleksandr Zholob represented Philadelphia Academy and placed 1st in the 50 Yard Free and 100 Yard Breast at the PIAA District 12 swimming championships this past weekend. Lastly, our men's basketball team defeated the School of the Future in an exciting playoff game today. This has earned them a spot in the PIAAA state Championship- Good luck gentleman!

We have some spectacular performances in the classroom as well. Semester 1 report cards posted on February 13th. 64 students made the honor roll for the 2nd quarter and 75 students received distinguished honors for the 2nd quarter. Students are finishing up the 2nd round of CDT testing which is a practice and benchmark test for the Spring Keystones. Teachers are tracking student improvement and performance to guide instruction and prepare our students for state testing. This afternoon and evening we had a well attended report conference. I would like to thank our teachers and parents for their dedication to our students.

Our students are also champions in the community. NHS is participating in the Philly Service Project again. This year the students have been actively working on the Play like a Champion project and launched a sports equipment drive for Philadelphia Recreation Centers. They will be presenting at the elementary school next week to promote youth sports and even showcase the sports offered at the high school.

Our Model UN Club attended the 2025 conference at the Marriott in Center City. The conference had over 3,000 students this year, including delegations from Brazil and Israel. We had 11 students who participated, including 4 seniors and 3 freshmen. Mrs. Morris stated that the conference was overall a success - both of our student groups' resolution papers passed/were adopted. Our students did an awesome job representing the school - in terms of preparation, participation and behavior. It was an excellent experience for all students in terms of learning how to cooperate in groups with various interests, how to debate/effectively present points of view, having to overcome the stress and anxiety associated with public speaking and, of course, having to do all the preparation and research leading to the conference.

I have one last item: our Mini-THON; this is our school's 9th year participating in this wonderful event. Last year our students raised over 15 thousand dollars to fight pediatric cancer. They are working towards overcoming that number this year with a goal of 17,000. On March 6th every third online donation will be doubled. If you are interested in donating, I will share the link in next Wednesday's *High School Happenings*.

### **Principal's Report – PACS – Mr. Robinson**

Good Evening Everyone, The second trimester grades close tomorrow. They will be posted on Infinite Campus for parents

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and caregivers by midweek next week.

The grade school will be celebrating Read Across America March 3rd-7 th . There will be small events and a buddy day.

LifeTouch will be at the GS on Wednesday March 5 th for Kindergarten through 7 th grade spring photos.

The middle school 6 th -8 th grade winter dance will be held tomorrow night in our gym. Tomorrow afternoon both our girls' and boys' basketball teams will play their final home game

of the season before playoffs. This year we are graduating sixteen 8 th grade students from the

teams. There will be a halftime midcourt celebration for the graduating 8 th graders.

Despite the frigid weather it is that time of the year already—announcements and sign ups for our summer programming have gone out to families this week. Our academic and enrichment programming will run from June 23 rd to July 31, 2025.

End of report. Thank you.

#### **Special Education and Transition Programs – Jeneen Vendetti**

A new initiative is in place for Student interns to be recognized for their excellent work in the transition program as the "Student Intern of the Month." Kierstin is a 2nd-year intern who consistently works hard, she often checks in to ask those she comes in contact with how they are with genuine care and is always willing to help her peers and staff. Congratulations, Kierstin!

We are preparing for our Cyclical Monitoring Audit every 6 years. Our Special education advisor from the Bureau of Special Education and peers will be onsite March 3-7 to review documents, interview administration, teachers, and parents, and observe students with services.

Mrs. Steel is collaborating with The Arc on the "Include Me" program. Once finalized, their staff will visit once a week for six weeks, tailoring the program to our specific needs. This will include providing toolkits and support focused on inclusion and professional development. Engaging community stakeholders will further strengthen our special education program, so we are excited about that connection.

#### **Facilities –Steve Chiara**

**Grade School:** PURE WATER TECHNOLOGY PERFORMED THE ANNUAL PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE ON ALL THE WATER COOLERS.

TWO BROKEN OVERHEAD HEATERS IN THE LOADING AREA WERE REPLACED.

GTO WAS ON SITE FOR THE SEMI-ANNUAL GREASE TRAP CLEAN OUT.

PWD CONDUCTED A STORMWATER MANAGEMENT INSPECTION OUTSIDE THE ANNEX GROUNDS

**High School Report-** -The kitchen suppression system had its semi annual inspection and it passed  
The biotech lab had a permanent water filter system installed. This helps the aquaponics system run more efficiently

**Security- Brian Beudet**

**Traffic:**

Buses continue to run on schedule and traffic appears to be flowing safely.

**School Safety:**

All School staff have received their mandatory 2 hours of training per Section 1310-B of Public School Code “School Safety and Security Training”.

The front office intercom was not working and was replaced.

Signs stating “Students and Staff ONLY beyond this point” were hung at the grade school entrances and exits by the bus entrance, annex and across from the annex leading to the kitchen area.

6 speakers were installed in the expansion part of the grade school. Classrooms in the rear of the expansion had trouble hearing school announcements while teaching their curriculum.

An estimate was obtained and work is scheduled to install fencing by the bus entrance to prevent students and parents from walking through the garden area.

**Monthly Drills**

Since the last Board Meeting we successfully conducted 2 safety drills. The grade school

had their Active Shooter Drill on 01-23-25 and at the high school an Active Shooter Drill on 01-24-25 and a fire drill on 02-10-25.

**Transportation- Claire Torres** Good evening everyone, Transportation is embracing the extra cold weather that we are having.

We completed our first snow storm without issue

We are making sure to give students extra time to load and unload the busses to prevent student injury

and have made extra infixes on the drivers to use extra caution when transporting our students in the changing climate weather.

We have added an extra route to accommodate transporting more students and we look forward to servicing more of our student and family community.

- **Home & School Report** – None
- **Parent Advisory Report** - None

**VII. Financial Report – Tom Taylor**  
See attached report.

**VIII: Old Business – None**

**IX: New Business**

**RESOLUTION #1**

Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Philadelphia Academy Charter School to

Approve the purchase of a 9 passenger van not to exceed a cost of \$65,000.

Resolution No.: 2025- Feb. 20-1 (Finance)

*Ayes: 6*                      *Nays: 0*                      *Action:*  
*Passed*

Motion for Adjournment.

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Motion: Pawlowski  
Second: Burns

*Ayes: 6                      Nays: 0                      Action: Passed*

*The meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.*

**Certification:**

Proposed minutes respectfully submitted,



3/20/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary /Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approval by the Board of Directors Pending



3/20/2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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