

Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM

Minutes

The Capital Area School for the Arts Charter School Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at 150 Strawberry Square, Harrisburg, PA 17101.

Board members in attendance: Christopher Healy (zoom), Alicia McDonald, Elizabeth Mullaugh, Christine Pavlakovich (zoom), Elizabeth Reusswig, Cheryl Rudawski, Emily Sullivan.

Not in attendance: Richard Fry, Jennifer Mariacher.

Others/public in attendance: George Ioannidis, Erica Leonard, Matthew O'Connor, Max Valego (student), and Rain Yague-Cowfer (student).

1. Call to Order *Alicia McDonald called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.*

2. Roll Call/Additions to the Agenda/Administrative

3. Public Comment on Agenda Items

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of the Minutes of January 21, 2025 (Attachment)

A motion was made by Elizabeth Reusswig and seconded by Christopher Healy to approve the meeting minutes from January 21, 2025. The motion passed unanimously.

5. CEO Report

5.1. Enrollment update

5.1.1.Enrolled students as of February 13, 2025: 192

George Ioannidis reported that one or two additional students have expressed interest in leaving the school. There is a possibility of adding one more student.

5.2. Information Items

5.2.1.Update on PowerSchool data breach

George Ioannidis provided an update on the PowerSchool data breach, mentioning that he received a list of impacted students and staff from the IU. This information was shared with attorneys to assist in updating mailing addresses for some staff members. It was noted that only CASA email addresses are stored, with no personal email addresses on file. CASA sent a letter to staff and an email to all students within 10 days of the

incident. George will continue to work with attorneys on this matter and is attempting to connect with the leadership team at the IU. He expressed concerns about the timing of communications and accuracy of the data shared, stating that he would have preferred better communication and more proactive measures, given the magnitude of the situation.

5.2.2.Staffing Update (actions later in the agenda)

George Ioannidis provided an update on staffing. Shai has accepted the job offer for the special education classroom assistant position. Additionally, George and Erica Leonard are currently interviewing a candidate for the science position. There is potential interest in a part-time math teaching position, though this is contingent upon enrollment numbers. The position will be posted and, if necessary, a recommendation will be brought to the Board for consideration at a later date.

5.2.3.Review of student enrollment for 2025-2026 school year (Attachment)

Erica Leonard provided an update on student enrollment for the upcoming school year. The current projection is 187 students from round 1 and round 2 auditions. Round 3 auditions have just been completed, with 18-25 acceptance letters being offered to students who auditioned. Additionally, there are two more applicants for another round of auditions. An open house is scheduled for March, which may generate further interest from prospective students. Given the current trends, it is expected that enrollment will exceed the charter cap of 205 students.

5.3. Items Recommended for Approval

5.3.1.Approval of engagement letter with McDonald Hopkins regarding the PowerSchool data breach work (Attachment)

George Ioannidis is taking the lead on all interactions with PowerSchool, ensuring that the school remains properly notified and updated.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Mullaugh and seconded by Christine Pavlakovich to approve the engagement letter with McDonald Hopkins regarding the PowerSchool data breach work. The motion passed unanimously.

5.3.2.Approval of dual enrollment agreement with Central Penn College (Attachment)

5.3.3.Approval of dual enrollment agreement with Pennsylvania Western University (Attachment)

George Ioannidis expressed excitement about the work Mrs. Bonham has done in overseeing the dual enrollment agreements. All courses will be conducted through remote classroom learning.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Mullaugh and seconded by Cheryl Rudawski to approve the dual enrollment agreements with Central Penn College and Pennsylvania Western University. The motion passed unanimously.

5.3.4.Approval of agreement with Southwest Foodservice Excellence, LLC, to provide lunch service for our students (Attachment)

George Ioannidis shared that, regarding the contract with Harrisburg School District, Dr. Stokes recommended contracting directly with Southwest Foodservice Excellence, LLC. The cost for services is \$65 per day, and they

will provide services through the end of the school year. This is considered the most cost-effective approach moving forward.

5.3.5. Approval of agreement with Vector Solutions, to provide an online training platform for professional development (Attachment)

George Ioannidis shared that Vector Solutions offers a wide range of topics for training and professional development for staff. The cost of the platform will be covered by the PCCD grant and will help CASA meet its training requirements.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Reusswig and seconded by Cheryl Rudawski to approve the agreements with Southwest Foodservice Excellence, LLC, and Vector Solutions. The motion passed unanimously.

5.3.6. Approval of April 25, 2025, to be designated a virtual day for students (Attachment)

5.3.7. Approval of field trip requests (Attachment)

5.3.8. Approval of new student clubs (Attachment)

5.3.9. Approval of student fundraiser (Attachment)

George Ioannidis presented several student-related items to the board for approval: a virtual day for students, a number of field trip requests, two new student club proposals, and approval for a fundraiser.

A motion was made by Christine Pavlakovich and seconded by Elizabeth Mullaugh to approve items 5.3.6 through 5.3.9 simultaneously. The motion passed unanimously.

5.3.10. Approval of Policies reviewed by the Policy Committee (Attachment)

5.3.10.1. 103.2 Title IX Policy (replacement of existing policy)

George Ioannidis brought the approval of the Title IX Policy to the board, reiterating that the current policy is being replaced by the old version of the policy.

5.3.10.2. Immigration (new, number to be assigned)

George Ioannidis explained that the policy update is in response to a recent executive order by the Trump administration. The policy outlines the school's procedures in the event of challenges or visits related to the immigration status of any students.

5.3.10.3. Generative AI (new, number to be assigned)

George Ioannidis discussed the need for a generative AI policy within the school setting. He emphasized that the key challenge will be collaborating with staff to develop procedures and establish guidelines for how generative AI can be used effectively by both students and teachers.

The discussion focused on how AI can be used as a tool in education rather than as a means of academic dishonesty. The policy will enable the staff to establish guidelines for how to integrate AI into the curriculum effectively to enhance learning and student assessment.

5.3.10.4. 113.3 Student Evaluation/Revaluation (replacement of existing policy)

George explained that they are rewriting some of the terms and conditions for how students are evaluated for special services.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Mullaugh and seconded by Cheryl Rudawski to approve all of the proposed policies simultaneously. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Board President's Report

Alicia McDonald shared that she will be sending out a Google document to update board contacts. She is also revisiting the committee listings and reviewing board terms to create a chart for the current year. Alicia asked board members to notify her if they plan to roll off or if they have recommendations for new board members. Additionally, she reminded the board that the school musical will be held the second weekend of March at Rose Lehrman Arts Center, with tickets now available.

7. Treasurer's Report

7.1. Financials (Attachment)

George Ioannidis provided an update on the school's financials, reporting a revenue of just under \$290k and expenses of \$229k, resulting in a net operating income of \$60k for the period. Year-to-date, total income stands at \$2.1M, with expenses at \$1.9M, leaving a net operating income of just under \$200k. George expressed confidence in the direction of the finances, noting that many bills have been paid down and the school is getting current. With over \$300k in accounts receivable, he feels good about the cash flow.

George and Matthew are currently working on next year's budget and are soliciting input from staff, with a focus on longer-range planning.

7.2. Invoices for Payment (Attachment)

George Ioannidis shared the invoices for payment document and noted a few additions, including two bills from the IU and one from the consultant. He confirmed that the school has enough funds to cover payroll in March as well as the PSERS payment. The school is staying current with insurance billings.

A motion was made by Christopher Healy and seconded by Elizabeth Mullaugh to approve the proposed invoices for payment. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Budget Administration

9. Other Fiscal Matters

9.1. Filing of the Annual 990 Form to the IRS (Attachment)

George Ioannidis shared that Diana Reed reviewed the annual 990 form. Elizabeth Reusswig noted that the form lists "Capital Region Arts" and should be updated to reflect the CASA Charter School Foundation. Elizabeth Mullaugh highlighted an item from TFEC listed on the form, and George confirmed that the school did receive a check directly from TFEC. Additionally, George mentioned that child accounting posed a challenge during the audit.

9.2. Status of the licensing agreement to enter into a "Resident Company" relationship with The Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts Inc. (Attachment)

George Ioannidis shared that the Whitaker Center is open to adjusting the "resident company" wording, as CASA is not a resident company. He is working with Heather at the Whitaker Center to refine the language and ensure there are no obligations for a minimum number of performances. This relationship may lead to opportunities such as student internships and artwork displays, but the school is not committing to exclusive use, as other venues have been more cost-effective.

10. Personnel Matters

10.1. Personnel Report

10.1.1. Employment Recommendations

10.1.1.1. Appointment of Ashika Dhaurali, Special Education Classroom Assistant (Attachment)

George Ioannidis shared that he is excited to welcome Shai to the Special Education Classroom Assistant role and expressed enthusiasm about having another team member working with students. George noted an increase in the number of students with IEPs, and reminded the board that Shai's salary and some of her training will be covered by the PCCD grant through June 2026.

A motion was made by Christine Pavlakovich and seconded by Emily Sullivan to approve the appointment of Ashika Dhaurali to the Special Education Classroom Assistant position. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Committee Reports

11.1. Committee discussions

None.

12. CASA Charter School Foundation Report

Alicia McDonald shared a CASA Foundation update on David Skerpon's behalf. The end of calendar year appeal brought in just shy of \$24k. She also mentioned that the "Taste of the Arts" gala fundraiser will be held on May 28th at The Willows, with plans to feature it as a chef event. The Foundation is still looking for additional committee members to help organize the event. Three local chefs will be competing, and the planning committees will be focused on chef recruitment, appetizer recruitment, dessert recruitment, PR and marketing, sponsorships and entertainment, and logistics. The mansion is being provided in-kind for the event. Additional information from Dave will be included in the meeting minutes.

13. Policies, Programs, and Governing Documents

14. Information Items

14.1. Update on LEA McKinney-Vento (Homeless Students) Monitoring Visit

George Ioannidis reported that the LEA McKinney-Vento monitoring visit was productive. He commended Alexis and Matthew for their efforts coordinating the visit. George noted that there are procedural updates needed, including ensuring the staff and student-parent handbooks contain the necessary information and resources. While there are not many homeless students at CASA, George expressed confidence that the school is addressing their needs effectively.

14.2. Upcoming Dates: See attached listing

The board was reminded of the upcoming school musical, CASALive!, graduation, and February's Black history month celebration.

15. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Alicia McDonald asked the two students in attendance if they had any questions or comments for the group.

Max Valego requested more information on the recent changes to the Title IX and CASA's immigration policy. George Ioannidis explained that the Title IX policy reverted to the 2020 guidelines after a judge issued an injunction preventing the enforcement of new regulations put in place under the Biden administration. The policy now reflects the previous regulations from 2020. George also discussed the immigration policy, which outlines procedures to follow if agents were to visit the school, ensuring safety of students and staff, and also in compliance with the law.

16. Next Board Meeting Date

The next CASA Charter School Board of Trustees meeting is Monday, March 17, 2025.

A motion was made by Elizabeth Mullaugh and seconded by Cheryl Rudawski to adjourn the board meeting at 7:19 PM. The motion passed unanimously.