

先锋中英双语学校

Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 2023 – Meeting Cancelled
March 2, 2023 at 6:00pm

School Location: PVCICS, 317 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035

The meeting was held via Zoom and Telephone access in accordance with current State guidelines regarding Remote Board Meetings during the Coronavirus pandemic. The host for this meeting was Executive Director Richard Alcorn.

The February 2023 Board meeting was initially scheduled for February 2, 2023. However, at the Board meeting of January 5, 2023, Principal Kathy Wang indicated that she was not available for the February Meeting and asked that it be re-scheduled to the following week. After discussion, the meeting was re-scheduled by the Board's roll call vote to Thursday, February 9, 2023.

Documents sent for the February meeting:

1. Email dated 1/14/23 regarding the Massachusetts Charter School Financial Dashboard with FY'22 Data
2. Email dated 1/25/23 regarding Financial Statements dated December 31, 2022

As per an email dated February 7, 2023 from Executive Director Richard Alcorn, the Board Meeting to be held on February 9, 2023 was cancelled.

In attendance for the March meeting: Board Chair Cynthia Farmer, Greg Rota, Frank Soleimani, Gina Ocasion, and Student Rep. Augusto Schwanz

Absent: Vice-Chair Mike Rooney, Ann Kochis, Ying "Elaine" Wang, and Faculty Rep. Kim Lachance

Others in attendance: Executive Director Richard Alcorn, Principal Kathy Wang, previous Board member Elizabeth "Betty" Larivee (meeting scribe), prospective Board Member Charles "Nick" Bagley, Director of Student Services Marilyn Kusek, and Morgan (School Parent).

Documents used in this meeting:

1. Meeting Agenda with information for Zoom and Phone access
2. Draft Minutes of the Board Meeting dated January 5, 2023
3. Email dated 2/21/23 regarding Financial Statements dated January 31, 2023
4. Email dated 3/2/23 regarding Resume of Charles "Nick" Bagley

Meeting was officially called to order by the Chair at 6:17 PM. Chair Cynthia completed a roll call for attendance of Board members. Present were Gina, Frank, Greg, Augusto, and Cynthia.

Chair Cynthia stated that as of this date, there has been no response from DESE regarding the approval for ED Richard Alcorn to become a voting member of the Board of Trustees.

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Public Comment: None

Administrative Items: Minutes from the January 5, 2023 Board Meeting were presented for review. No corrections were noted. Greg made a motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Gina. Roll call vote: Approval from Frank, Greg, Gina, and Cynthia. Motion passed.

Committee and Task Force Reports:

- Trusteeship Committee: Committee Chair Frank reported that the committee held a meeting last night. (a) Gina recommended a person for the Board recruitment but contact with this person has not yet occurred. (b) The committee knows that Ying “Elaine” Wang will be resigning from the Board so they have considered a person to backfill her Board position which expires in June 2023. The committee is recommending Charles “Nick” Bagley for this backfill position -- he has previously served on the Board when the school opened and returned for a term from January 2015 to January 2021. He is currently a Community Representative on the Finance Committee. Following discussion, Frank made a motion to approve the committee recommendation; seconded by Greg. Roll call vote was unanimous approval. ED Richard indicated that he will send required paperwork for DESE approval and then Nick could start his term on the Board. (c) The Recruitment process for new Board members is underway so ads will be in local newspapers for the next two weekends. Principal Kathy has also sent a notice out to all families regarding the Recruitment application process.
- Finance Committee: Committee Chair Elaine was not present. ED Richard stated that the Financial Reports continue to show a surplus; tuition payments are lower than forecasted; grants are being drawn down which gives the financial reports better accountability; expenses for special education services have been reconciled in this month’s financial reports; the Town of Amherst is negotiating with their Teacher’s Union for a new contract; Governor Healey has proposed full funding for the Student Opportunity Act (K-12) in place of the Covid Relief Funds.
- Personnel and Grievance Committee: Committee Chair Gina stated the committee continues to work on the observations of Principal Kathy.

Principal’s Report: Principal Kathy reported:

Power Point presentation covered the following topics:

- ✓ Academically, 110 school days have elapsed; fall semester ended 1/23/23 on day 90; Student assessments started in January, MCAS starts in March, IB testing is done in May, and various Chinese testing will be done in January/April/May.
- ✓ Two teachers from the National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU) were expected but three have arrived and started work on February 1st. One is a Physical Education Teacher, another is an Assistant in Grade 2, and the third person is a co-teacher in Grade 4.
- ✓ Swatting of local schools is an issue. Police presence outside of PVCICS has been noted for safety concerns as well as traffic and construction issues on Route 9.

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- ✓ Some parents have expressed concerns about school safety in light of the recent media report that the Covid virus was in fact released from a Chinese lab. They are concerned about the possibility of students being targeted.
- ✓ Thanks were expressed for the Board's approval of once again allowing a staff bonus.
- ✓ Whitson's Foods continues to have difficulties. During the 12th week of services, they were rated 3 out of 5; delivery and operations are considered "so-so"; one day, lunch service had to be re-scheduled to a later time due to non-delivery of food and milk. This contract for food services is due to be re-bid at the end of the school year.
- ✓ Athletics has started the spring season. The vertical climbing wall has been completed but cannot be used until a license is granted by the Mass. State Amusement Division and students complete permission slips.
- ✓ The State will be doing a Tiered Focus Monitoring of PVCICS in the areas of Special Education and Civil Rights. This is only a document review so no school on-site visit is expected.
- ✓ The Chinese Lunar New Year was recognized with school activities which included a Lion Dance by Middle School Students for the elementary level students.
- ✓ During Black History Month, the High School Club presented an evening of food as served by local Black business owners: Hot Oven Cookie, Hazel's Kitchen, Garden of Eat'n, and Duro West African Cuisine.

Executive Director's Report: ED Richard reported:

- ❖ Financial Reports have been previously covered.
- ❖ A letter has yet to be drafted and sent to Patrick Tutwiler, the newly appointed Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Education, as an invitation to visit PVCICS and learn about the school's program.
- ❖ Further discussion will occur in Executive Session.

New Business: NONE

Having no further business, Chair Cynthia thanked everyone for their participation in tonight's meeting. She then read the following statement: The PVCICS Board of Trustees will enter into Executive Session per **MGL c30A s21(a) 6** – To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property. Open session will not reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Cynthia called for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting and immediately move into Executive Session. Greg made the motion; seconded by Gina. Roll call vote was unanimous approval: Frank, Greg, Gina and Cynthia. The meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

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