

**BADEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Regular Meeting**

**December 20, 2021**

**Call to order**

The meeting was called to order on Monday, December 20, 2021 at 6:08 pm by Mrs. Karwoski

**Roll Call**

Present:  
Marta Karwoski  
Connie Mabin  
Tom Ward  
John Silbert  
Roylin Petties  
Lisa Houy

Absent: Charlie Camp

Madam Chairperson, we have a quorum.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Adopt Amended Agenda**

Motion: Lisa Houy  
Seconded: Roylin Petties  
Discussion:  
Passed unanimously

**Recommend that the Board approve the minutes from the November 15, 2021 regular board meeting.**

Motion: Tom Ward  
Seconded: Connie Mabin  
Discussion:  
Passed unanimously

**Public Comment:**

**Mr. Felder – Commended the school on the job they have done and asked them to keep masks in place. Proud of keeping kids safe.**

**Mrs. Parish – Asked her own students how students were wearing their masks. Her students reported that students are not wearing them properly.**

**Mr. Ault - Asked that Baden Academy follow law and parent choice regarding masking vs. non masking. He stated masking is not enforceable. Proper masking is not being followed, and students are not wearing them the correct way.**

**Mrs. Tomb - Wants mask choice. He stated that he is not telling anyone what they should do but thinks parents should have choice. All should have the right to choose and freedom to choose.**

**The slate of officers was presented and voted on:**

**President – Marta Karwoski  
Vice President – John Silbert**

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**Secretary – Chelsea Mason**

**Treasurer – Tom Ward**

**Motion: John Silbert**

**Second : Lisa Houy**

**Discussion:**

**Passed: Unanimously**

**Jeff Anzovino from Deluzio & Company spoke on the 6/30/21 financial audit. The audit will have a clean opinion, and a final copy is expected to be given to the Board in the coming weeks. He stated that this is the first year that Baden has also had to have a single audit due to the amount of federal funds that have been received.**

**Correspondence: None**

**Administrator's Report**

- ❖ We are partnering with the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust to provide our students with an Artist Residency Program beginning in January 2022. Kindergarten- dance, first grade- theatre, second grade- creative writing, third grade – sculpting and weaving, fourth grade- musical theatre, fifth grade- drumming and sixth grade- photography.
- ❖ 24 teachers volunteered to stay after school to attend an online training about aggressive and violent behaviors hosted by PDE.
- ❖ We held our winter showcases last week with a great turn-out for all shows, and the students were excited to be back in the auditorium performing live.
- ❖ The House of Altruismo held a toy drive for Project Holiday Dreams (check the BACS Facebook for some great pictures)
- ❖ The House of Reveur held a candy cane sale to benefit a person in need of a wheelchair.
- ❖ Representatives from Lincoln Park Performing Arts Charter School visited with the sixth grade students about enrolling and gave them information about the many programs they have to offer.
- ❖ On Tuesday, December 14, one of our BACS busses was involved in an accident with two students sustaining minor injuries. Our school resource officer (Officer Mark) worked quickly with BACS admin team to secure the scene and evaluate the students.
- Ms. Mabin added that it was nice to see the Lincoln Park students helping at the Santa Work Shop. Thanks to the PTP for putting everything together.

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**Recommend the Board approve the financials a and b below:**

- a. **Recommend the Board approve the list of invoices paid in November 2021 in the amount of \$297,440.82 from the general fund.**
- b. **Recommend the Board approve the financials dated November 30, 2021.**

Motion: Tom Ward  
Seconded: Roylin Petties  
Discussion:  
Passed Unanimously

**Recommend that the Board approve the proposal with Trust Arts Education for an Arts Integration residency program.**

Motion: Mr. Silbert  
Seconded: Mr. Ward  
Discussion:

Ms. Mabin asked how is this going to work practically. Will this program go with elements program or is it in addition? She also asked if it is correct that the program requires that students are masked.

Ms. Houy commented that it is great that the Integration Residency offer mediums to supplement what of the school has to offer. She also thinks that even if students have to mask for this opportunity, it is worth it.

Passed unanimously

**Recommend that the Board approve the cleaning contract with Envirocare (contract to start on Jan 17, 2022, ending on June 30, 2023) pending legal review.**

Motion: Lisa Houy  
Seconded: Connie Mabin  
Discussion:  
Joshua Pollak Thinks there needs to be needs legal review.

Passed unanimously

**Recommend the board approve the proposal from PowerSchool for lottery software and Schoology learning management system.**

Motion: Roylin Petties  
Seconded: Tom Ward  
Discussion:  
Passed unanimously

**Recommend the board approve contracting with the BVIU to provide ESL services for newly identified students at Baden Academy.**

Motion: Connie Mabin  
Seconded: John Silbert

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**Discussion:**

Ms. Mabin asked that student's names be redacted of items being presented.

Passed unanimously

**Recommend that the Board approve the following job descriptions: Executive Assistant to the CEO and Administrative Assistant.**

**Motion:** Roylin Petties

**Seconded:** Connie Mabin

**Discussion:**

Passed unanimously

**Recommend that the Board approve the proposal from Omnivest for state reporting.**

**Motion:** Tom Ward

**Seconded:** Connie Mabin

**Discussion:**

Ms. Houy wanted clarification. Mr. Ward explained that Omnivest will submit all state reports.

Passed unanimously

**Review BACS's Health and Safety Plan.**

**Motion:**

**Second:**

**Discussion:**

Ms. Mabin questioned Mr. Pollack if there is anything that precludes BACS from having a mandate. He stated the ruling has nothing to do with BACS Safety Plan. The school adopted a plan in August that required masks after the Pennsylvania Secretary of Health required all school students to wear them also.

Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court decided The Pennsylvania Department of Health did not have authority to enforce this mandate. The Pennsylvania Supreme Court upheld that ruling.

That decision has no bearing on this specific school's board decision on this school health and safety plan.

Ms. Lennon stated that say that we would review the plan.

Ms. Houy disagreed with maintaining the mask mandare and finds it unacceptable to have students who are not vaccinated be forced to wear masks and those who are vaccinated not wear them. There is science behind all of it. They are at home, at sports and at other places without masks. She believes that youngsters are not getting Covid like adults are, the virus will be around forever, and she does not want children to suffer.

Mr. Silbert is also opposed to the mask mandate. He thinks the science is not settled, and science is being politicalized. He is glad the Board has a review process and hopes that we continue to review.

Ms. Mabin hears everyone's side and appreciates the parents who have made the time to come and made their voice heard. She wants to air on the side of caution that may protect any child, thinks we should continue to look at number and data and review every month.

Mrs. Karwoski – Supports maintaining mask mandate.

Mr. Ward suggests revisiting this subject every month.

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Mr. Pollack stated are many districts that base off of a formula regarding the 7-day incident rate. For moderate, substantial or high incident rates, masking is required. The county reports the numbers every week. We could follow the data put out by county and base masking from it.

Mrs. Karwoski asked for a roll call vote of whether to keep the masking as part of BACS Health and Safety Plan:

Marta Karwoski - Yes

John Silbert – No

Connie Mabin – Yes

Lisa Houy – No

Tom Ward – Yes

Roylin Petties – Yes

Charlie Camp - Absent

Motion Carries

**Executive Session**

Recommend the Board go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters, in accordance with Pennsylvania's *Sunshine Law*, 65 Pa.C.S.A. § At 6:52 pm

Motion: Lisa Houy

Seconded: Roylin Petties

Discussion:

Passed unanimously

Recommend the Board come out of executive session at 7:18 pm

Motion: Tom Ward

Seconded: Lisa Houy

Discussion:

Passed Unanimously

**Recommend that the Board approve the personnel report dated December 20, 2021**

Motion: John Silbert

Second: Lisa Houy

Discussion:

Passed: Passed Unanimously

**Board Member Questions & Comments:**

There were no board member questions. President Karwoski read a Christmas card presented to the board by Vice Principal Wigley expressing his gratitude and happiness to be at Baden Academy. Board members wished the entire Baden Academy community happy and healthy holidays and thanked the staff and administration for their work in 2021.

**Date of next Board Meeting is January 24, 2022 at 6 pm**

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**Adjourn at 7:20 pm**

Motion: Roylin Petties

Second: Lisa Houy

Discussion:

Passed: Passed Unanimously

Signed by: Chelsea Mason

Mrs. Chelsea Mason

Secretary

