

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

April 15, 2024

Call to order

The meeting was called to order on Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:03 pm by Mr. Camp

Roll Call

Present:
Charles A. Camp
Marta Karwoski

Excused:

Connie Mabin

John Silbert
Roylin Petties
Tom Ward
Doug Sharp

Pledge of Allegiance

Motion to Adopt Agenda

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

Recommend that the Board approve the minutes from the March 18, 2024 regular Board meeting.

Motion: Mr. Ward
Seconded: Mrs. Karwoski
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

Public Comment – None

Correspondence –None

Administrator's Report

- We will be holding a STEAM night on Thursday, May 16th from 6-7:30 with demonstrations by experts in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.
- We had our 2nd visit from Forest the therapy dog. He joined our 2nd grade students in our outdoor classroom and Mr. Jeff from Reforest our Future read with us. The students love the therapy dog and Mr. Jeff.
- We would love it if you could make it to one of our productions of our musical, this year we will be doing Annie. The performance dates are:
 - Blue Cast- Thursday, April 25 at 7:00pm & Saturday, April 27 at 7:00pm
 - Red Cast- Friday, April 26 at 7:00pm & Saturday, April 27 at 2:00pm
- **PSSA Dates**
- Grades 3-4-5-6

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- *ELA - April 22-23-24*
- *Math - April 29-30*
- *Grade 4 only*
- *Science - May 1-2*

- Remember that our 3rd annual Arts at the Academy will be held on Saturday, May 4th
- Mrs. Keriotis is looking for used instruments for our students to paint on. The instruments will be raffled off during our Arts at the Academy event. All funds raised will be donated to the American Cancer Society.
- On Monday, March 25 we learned that the Ambridge Area School District is going to recommend non-renewal of our charter at their April 17th board meeting.

Ambridge Area School District/Baden Academy Charter School update (Josh Pollak)

- Ambridge posted it on their website a public hearing about Charter Nonrenewal.
- The Baden Academy School Board decided to hire a crisis management firm.
- At the Ambridge School Board meeting they listened to the parents speak. The parents all spoke very well and all had positive things to say about Baden.
- There will be another meeting on Wednesday (April 17, 2024)
- The nonrenewal vote on Wednesday would trigger the May 8th hearing.
- Typical Procedures – It's not uncommon to have a Superintendent that is anti-charter. Just because a superintendent makes a recommendation doesn't mean a board has to support that. They may decide to support and it trigger a hearing. This would include parent testimony, expert testimony. The district needs to have its non-renewal on the six possible statutes. The cost of the charter school on the district is not one of the possible reasons.
- Six Possible Statutes
 - One or more material Violation of any of the conditions, standards or procedures contained in the written charter
 - Failure to meet requirements for student performance
 - Failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management or audit requirements
 - Violation of provisions of law from which the charter school has not been exempted (including federal laws).
 - Violation of provisions of this article.
 - The Charter School has been convicted of Fraud

- The district would still hold the charter if it goes to the Charter Schools appeals board.

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- We had to go to the Charter Schools Appeals Board to get our Charter.
- 7 individuals make up the Charter School Appeals Board. These individuals are recommended by the Governor and approved by the senate.
- They have seen the process last a year and half to three plus years from the time a case goes to the Charter Schools Appeal Board.

Financial Report

- a. **Recommend the Board approve the list of invoices paid in March 2024 in the amount of \$694,086.13 from the general fund.**

Motion: Mr. Silbert
Second: Mr. Petties
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

- b. **Recommend the Board approve the financials dated March 2024.**

Motion: Mrs. Karwaski
Second: Mr. Sharp
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

Recommend that the Board approve the Gatesman Agency Agreement.

Motion: Mr. Sharp
Second: Mrs. Karwaski
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

Recommend that the Board approve the contract for training services provided by Brian Mendler.

Motion: Mr. Petties
Second: Mr. Sharp
Discussion: Ms. Lennon showed a promo video. His father spoke at Baden in 2017 (Power Struggles). He is very hard to get and even reached back out to us and said that he would fit Baden in before the 2014-2025 school year starts.
Passed unanimously

Recommend the Board approve the FastSigns invoice for \$11,715.64 for the removal of old tint and installation of the new vinyl.

Motion: Mr. Petties
Second: Mr. Silbert
Discussion: Finish the Kindergarten side. Remove ineffective

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Passed unanimously

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. § 6:52 at pm

Motion: Mr. Petties
Second: Mr. Ward
Discussion:
Passed: Unanimously

Recommend the Board come out of executive session at 7:49pm

Motion: Mr. Petties
Second: Mr. Ward
Discussion:
Passed: Passed Unanimously

Recommend the Board approve the Personnel Report Dated April 2024.

Motion: Mrs. Karwaski
Second: Mr. Petties
Discussion:
Passed: Passed Unanimously

Board Member Questions & Comments:

Date of next Board Meeting is May 20, 2024 at 6pm

Adjourn at 7:51pm

Motion: Mr. Petties
Second: Mr. Sharp
Discussion:
Passed: Unanimously

Signed by: Chelsea Mason

Mrs. Chelsea Mason

Secretary