

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

August 16, 2021

Call to order

The meeting was called to order on Monday, August 16, 2021 at 6:05 pm by Mr. Silbert.

Roll Call

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

Absent:
Rob Sacco

Pledge of Allegiance

Adopt Agenda

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

Recommend that the Board approve the minutes of the July 19, 2021 regular meeting

Motion: Mr. Ward
Seconded: Ms. Houy
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

Public Comment

Jesse Ault who has two children in school expressed his concern about a mask mandate. He told the board, "My daughter's entire education has been ravaged by this pandemic. With my son and daughter coming back we are looking for normal back to basics. I am tired of the mask mandate. I see class DOJO pictures showing children without mass; the mandate isn't enforced. The health department is leaving it up to the school, so you can choose to have no masks."

Ashlyn Trautman has a daughter in first grade. She told the board, "I am ok with masks. My husband has a small business as a chiropractor; if he is exposed and gets sick for a long period, our business is done. I will not let my children go to school without masks. We need accountability. Although many school districts started without mask, many are changing back and adding a mask mandate."

Miranda Parish has four children in school. She told the board, "I have four children at Baden Academy and two of them have speech issues. How can the school help them with speech while they are wearing a mask? I saw a doctor on CBS say 'not if you get it, when you get it'...it is a virus that won't go away, like the flu. I am all about choice. I know that other parents may have a different opinion, and that we all feel very strongly in our opinions. If you want your students to wear a mask, then let them. My students were very uncomfortable last year; they had headaches and were hot in the masks."

Joyce Winbush has a daughter in fourth grade. She told the board, "My student did not come to school last year for fear of Covid. If everyone is not wearing a mask, they don't work. The recommendation for the new variant is that everyone should wear a mask, whether vaccinated or not."

BADEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting

August 16, 2021

Your germs in the air can get in my eyes. The only way to contain germs is a mask. Although they said children are not badly affected by the virus, if one child dies from it, is it worth it?"

Mr. Silbert thanked all who took the time to come and express their opinions. He said the board will take everything into consideration when making this tough decision regarding masks. Mrs. Karwoski said the board has to look at the safety of all of our students. Ms. Mabin stated that the bottom line is most of these are unvaccinated children.

Correspondence

The Board was given correspondence from Mr. Norm Erb-White, expressing his concerns for not making masks mandatory at school.

The board received a letter of resignation from Rob Sacco.

Administrator's Report

- Visit to Ron Clark Academy was July 21, 22, 23 with 8 administrators and teachers attending. We are very excited to implement this system.
- House System Kickoff is underway August 19; Ron Clark will be here to kick off the house system.
- 34 staff members volunteered for "All hands on deck" which is a testament to our dedicated staff.
- 10-Year Anniversary celebrations and activities: we have monthly meetings and are proud to be celebrating this milestone. We will have a great big celebration the first day of school!
- We have asked Susan Creese to update our social media, Facebook and Instagram, and she is doing a fantastic job.
- Kindergarten and new student orientation was held today.
- Assistant Principal interviews are complete and Maurice Wigley will be offered the position.
- We have some new hires on the personnel report
- August 26 is our first day for students.

Recommend that the Board approve the financials a, b, and c below.

a. Recommend the Board approve the list of invoices paid in July, 2021 in the amount of \$389,557.14 from the general fund.

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

b. Recommend the Board approve the financials dated July 31, 2021.

Motion: Ms. Houy
Second: Mr. Petties
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

c. Recommend the Board approve submission of form PDE-418, Application for Approval of Charter School Lease Reimbursement Program

Motion: Mr. Petties

BADEN ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Regular Meeting

August 16, 2021

Second: Mr. Ward
Discussion:
Passed unanimously

Recommend the Board approve the revisions to the ARP ESSER Health & Safety Plan for the 2021-2022 school year pending board changes

Motion: Mr. Silbert
Second: Ms. Houy

Discussion: Ms. Houy asked what was our original plan for wearing masks. Ms. Lennon said the board was originally going to make masks optional. At the beginning of summer, the Covid cases were low and the board hoped that they would remain that way so they voted to approve optional mask wearing during the July meeting. Since then, working with other school districts, six districts have changed to mandatory masks. Ms. Houy asked if masks at Seneca Valley were still optional. Ms. Lennon answered that the latest guidance is to wear a mask but it is not mandatory. Mr. Ward said that the piece he looks at is the safety of all the students in the school. The decision could change every month depending on the circumstances.

Mr. Silbert said that he has strong opinions that every parent has a choice of educational decisions, and we are suffering from an overload of misinformation. He stated that we could probably find the science on each side of the political argument. The science is not clear cut. He said at the very least we have to be very responsive to what's going out there so that we can make our next best decision. Ms. Houy is more in the middle. She looks at this as if our government mandated masks. It was much easier 3-4 weeks ago, but if we start going unmasked and our numbers get worse or the governor mandates, then we have to mask. Her position is with her kids they comply with anything, but she doesn't believe it is time to mandate. She is on board with the original decision to not mandate masks. Mr. Petties said that when you are on a board you have to decide on what is best for everyone as a whole. He is more in the middle, but you have to take into consideration that most students cannot yet be vaccinated. We cannot make everyone happy. Ms. Mabin said her decision is that we need to be there for each other and practice citizenship. Maybe her daughter will be fine without a mask, or maybe she will get COVID and die. Let's be the best we can be for each other. Mr. Silbert stated, "Where I am able to go with a mandate is that no individual is 'othered'. I find it abhorrent that they single out unvaccinated. If the mandate is for everyone, then no one is inappropriately 'othered'". The board will be constantly evaluating the situation and will make adjustments as needed.

Roll call vote:
Marta Karwoski yes
Connie Mabin yes
John Silbert yes
Tom Ward yes
Lisa Houy no
Roylin Petties yes

The motion was passed with a vote of 5 yes and 1 no.

Recommend that the Board approve the Police Services Agreement with Baden Borough Police Department, pending legal review

Motion: Ms. Houy
Second: Mr. Ward
Discussion: There are a few minor changes in wording that our solicitor would like.
Passed: Unanimously

Executive Session

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

August 16, 2021

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 6:44 pm

Motion: Mr. Petties
Second: Ms. Houy
Discussion:
Passed: Unanimously

Recommend the Board come out of executive session at 7:21 pm

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

Recommend that the Board approve the Personnel Report dated August 16, 2021

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

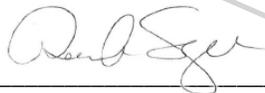
Board Member Questions & Comments None

Date of next Board Meeting is September 20, 2021 at 6 pm

Adjourn at 7:23 pm

Motion: Mr. Ward
Second: Ms. Mabin
Discussion:
Passed: Unanimously

Signed by: _____



Mrs. Ramona Sangermano

Secretary

