



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

State Board of Private Academic Schools

607 South Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17120-0600

January 19, 2024

The meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools convened on Friday, January 19, 2024, via a virtual meeting on Zoom. Public notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Jane Allis, Chairperson.

Board Members in Attendance

Jane M. Allis, Chairperson
Jim Buckheit
Douglas Carlquist
Carol Lopus
Suzann Morris

Board Counsel

Patrick Lord

Staff

Sara Hockenberry, Staff Counsel
Zachary Stritzinger, Staff Counsel
Monica L. Washington, Board Secretary
Kathleen Senft, Teacher Certification
Maryanne Olley, Office of Child Development & Early Learning
Renee Shade, Staff
Stephanie Nauss, Staff
Anita Harvin, Staff
Lilian Uzokwe, Staff

ROLL CALL

L. Uzokwe conducted the roll call of Board members.

SUNSHINE ACT MEETING NOTICES

Thursday and Friday Private Academic School Board meetings were published in accordance with the Sunshine Act of 1986. Please note, Friday's meeting was changed from hybrid on Zoom and at Pattan – Central to virtual only due to inclement weather. This change was noted in a Sunshine Notice as well as posted to the Department's website.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by S. Morris, the October 20, 2023, Board meeting minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment was given. Montessori school educators requested the Board consider Montessori Teacher Early Childhood Certification as another pathway to teacher certification/private academic certification in Pennsylvania. The Board requested additional documentation regarding the Montessori credential to review.

OLD BUSINESS

Hearing Requests – Patrick Lord

There are currently two hearing requests: Anderson Center for Autism and Sylvan of Exton. Anderson Center for Autism was considered at this January 2024 Board meeting and Sylvan of Exton will be considered by the Board at the next meeting.

Presentation of Motions – Sara Hockenberry

No motions were presented.

Previously Submitted Applications – Staff

No previously submitted applications.

Tabled Application – Anderson Center for Autism

Anderson Center for Autism and PDE were given time to present any additional information prior to the Board's consideration. The Board previously reviewed the information provided at the hearing and testimony.

Upon motion by J. Allis, seconded by J. Buckheit, Anderson Center for Autism's application for licensure was denied.

NEW BUSINESS

New Supplemental Applications for Board Approval

12 schools submitted supplemental applications for Board approval.

New Story, Mountville, New Story, Wyomissing, New Story, Carlisle, New Story, Harrisburg

Upon motion by S. Morris, seconded by D. Carlquist, New Story, Mountville, New Story, Wyomissing, New Story, Carlisle and New Story, Harrisburg supplemental applications were approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Building Blocks, Wilkes Barre and Building Blocks, Pringle

Upon motion by J. Allis, seconded by S. Morris, Building Blocks, Wilkes Barre and Building Blocks, Pringle's supplemental applications were approved with one condition by unanimous voice vote. The condition that each school must be met before licensure is:

1. Provide a revised schedule describing open center times during the schedule.

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by C. Lopus,

Ligonier Valley Learning Center, Latrobe

Hopwood Childcare, Hopwood

River Rock Academy, Spring Grove

Cuddle Zone Learning Center

Adelphoi Education at Albert Gallatin, Uniontown

and ***Southwood School, Canonsburg*** supplemental applications were approved by unanimous voice vote.

New Schools Applications for Board Approval

Five new schools were presented for Board approval.

Ligonier Valley Learning Center, Latrobe

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by C. Lopus, Ligonier Valley Learning Center, Latrobe's initial application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

POP Preschool, Latrobe

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by C. Lopus, POP Preschool, Latrobe's initial application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Hive Academy, East Norriton

Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by D. Carlquist, Hive Academy, East Norriton's initial application was approved with three conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide a picture of installed proposed divider wall and door.
2. Provide a revised schedule for grades 3-5 which includes unstructured/recess times daily.
3. Provide a revised answer to Question 13 on professional development outlining additional trainings with a focus on curriculum and teaching methods, as well as mandatory reporting.

River Rock Academy, Cressona

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by D. Carlquist, River Rock Academy, Cressona's initial application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Steel City Academies, West Mifflin

Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by D. Carlquist, Steel City Academies, West Mifflin's initial application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Education Directors for Board Approval

Please note, the listing of new Education Directors was corrected to reflect Dr. Kimberly Brown-Flint as the Director of Easter Seals of Southeastern PA in Philadelphia, not Media.

Please note, the listing of new Education Directors was corrected to add Gaynelle Angelo, Director of Vista School in Hershey, PA.

Upon a motion D. Carlquist, seconded by J. Buckheit, the listing of new Education Directors was approved by unanimous voice vote.

ELECTION OF 2024 OFFICERS

J. Buckheit made a motion to nominate Jane Allis to serve as Chairperson and Douglas Carlquist to serve as Vice Chair.

Upon a motion by S. Morris, seconded by C. Lopus, the motion to appoint Jane Allis as Chairperson and Douglas Carlquist as Vice Chair was approved by unanimous voice vote.

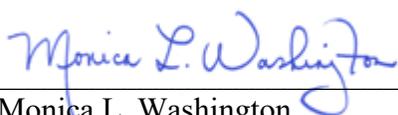
DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

P. Lord provided updates on the regulations. P. Lord notes that he will be able to provide a timetable for next steps at the next Board meeting.

D. Carlquist asked if there was anything the Board members could do to assist with the regulation update process. P. Lord reported that any Board member can contact him and will be invited to the next meeting with a consultant to work on the regulations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business and upon a motion by C. Lopus, seconded by S. Morris, the meeting was adjourned at 10:37 a.m. by unanimous voice vote.



Monica L. Washington
Secretary to the Board