October 19, 2018

The meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools convened on Friday, October 19, 2018 in the Honors Suite of the Pennsylvania Department of Education located at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Public notice of the meeting was published in accordance with the Sunshine Meeting Act of 1986. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Jane Allis, Chairperson.

**Board Members**

Jane Allis  
James Buckheit  
Dr. Charles R. Glean - Absent  
Kyu Hwang  
Carol Lopus  
Gwendolyn Morris  
Dr. Roberta L. Schomburg

Robert Tomaine, Senior Board Counsel

**Staff**

Sara Hockenberry, Assistant Counsel  
Monica L. Washington, Board Secretary  
Kelly Hudson, Staff  
Renee Shade, Staff  
Tina Weaver, Staff  
Stephanie Nauss, Staff  
Renee Lenker, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality  
Mary Ann Olley, Office of Child Development and Early Learning  
Joan McKenzie, Staff
ROLL CALL
J. McKenzie conducted the roll call of Board members. Representatives of the schools being presented are attached at the end of the minutes.

SUNSHINE ACT MEETING NOTICES
Thursday and Friday Private Academic School Board meetings were published in accordance with the Sunshine Act of 1986.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Upon a motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by R. Schomburg, the Minutes of the August 17, 2018, meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools was approved by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS
Hearing Requests – Robert Tomaine
R. Tomaine reported that currently there are no active hearing requests.

Presentation of Motions – Sara Hockenberry
No motions were presented.

Previously Submitted Applications – Staff
None to present.

NEW BUSINESS
New Supplemental Applications for Board Approval
Nine schools submitted supplemental applications for Board approval.

Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Lopus, eight schools: Camphill School; Ligonier Valley Learning Center; Little Learning Lamp, Johnstown; Merakey, Leechburg; Bright Beginnings, Conyngham; Building Blocks AEP, Wilkes Barre; St. Stephen’s Nursery School; and Saints Cosmas and Damian Preschool (with maximum student capacity of 22), supplemental applications were approved as submitted by unanimous voice vote.

Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by J. Buckheit, Adventure Learning Center, Jim Thorpe, supplemental application was conditionally approved by unanimous voice vote. The condition that must be met before licensure is:

1. Provide a revised progress report that includes science and social studies and more detail for art, music, physical education, and library.

New Schools and Directors for Board Approval
Fifteen new schools were presented for Board approval.

ABC’s For Children. Application was presented to the Board. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board commented that the application was very well put together. Congratulations on the Keystone 4-star rating and NAEYC accreditation. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K. Hwang, ABC’s For Children was approved for licensure of Kindergarten by unanimous voice vote.
**Bright Beginnings Education Center.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board exclaimed what a great application! Upon a motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by G. Morris, Bright Beginnings Education Center was approved for licensure of Nursery 3/Nursery 4 by unanimous voice vote.

**Children’s House of Philadelphia.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board had questions about the academic program, gross motor activities and progress reports. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K. Hwang, Children’s House of Philadelphia was conditionally approved for licensure of Nursery 3/Nursery 4 and Kindergarten by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide revised daily schedules that are within the 6-hour time frame allowed by PAS policy and which show gross motor activities for both age groups.
2. Provide revised progress report for preschool age that is more similar in style and detail to the kindergarten report and includes the arts.
3. Expand the answer to Question 7 to describe how your school will collaborate with agencies and therapists and integrate their recommendations in the classroom.

**Cookie Corner, Inc.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board commended the school program that has existed for a long time (application is change of ownership). The Board had questions about the curriculum, assessments and the schedules. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Lopus, Cookie Corner, Inc., was conditionally approved for licensure of Nursery 3/Nursery 4 by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide a revised progress report that is more aligned with the state standards for early learning.

**Creative Garden LLC, Reynoldsville & Creative Garden LLC, Punxsutawney.** Both applications were presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board congratulated the Punxsutawney location for the Keystone Star 3 rating and the answer to transitioning of students was excellent. Both locations have very good programs. Upon a motion by C. Lopus, seconded by J. Buckheit, both Creative Garden LLC Reynoldsville & Punxsutawney, were approved for licensure of Nursery 3/Nursery 4 by unanimous voice vote.

**Creative Kids Learning Center, Inc.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board appreciated the thorough answers to the questions. Congratulations on the Keystone Star 3 rating. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K.
Hwang, Creative Kids Learning Center, Inc. was approved for licensure of Nursery3/Nursery 4 by unanimous voice vote.

**Cray Education Center.** Application was presented to the Board. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board had questioned the student population, criteria for enrollments and transitioning of students. Upon a motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by R. Schomburg, Cray Education Center was conditionally approved for Special Education: Elementary/Secondary & Regular Education Elementary 4-8 (exceptionalities LD/SED), by unanimous voice vote. The condition that must be met before licensure is:

1. Provide a revised answer to Question 12 on facilitating transitions to provide more detail on the process.

**Ducklings Early Learning Center.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were three representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board appreciated the nice job answering questions and the well done, prepared application. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K. Hwang, Ducklings Early Learning Center was approved for licensure of Kindergarten by unanimous voice vote.

**Goddard School.** Application was presented to the Board. There was one representative in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board felt the application was on point and thorough. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Lopus, Goddard School was approved for Kindergarten by unanimous voice vote.

**Keystone Freedom Academy.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. Upon a motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by R. Schomburg, Keystone Freedom Academy was tabled for consideration at the January 18, 2019 Board meeting by unanimous voice vote. The following additional information must be provided:

1. Health assessment for one teacher; clearances for another teacher.
2. 3rd letter of support from a school district.
3. Examination of status of employment of Elizabeth Hart.
4. Revised answer to Question 6 on curriculum to explain more fully how learning will be delivered in each subject area including content and structure.
5. Revised answer to Question 13, providing information on transitioning students back to their home school district.

**Little Bird Preschool.** Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board had questions about the teacher qualifications. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K. Hwang, Little Bird Preschool was conditionally approved for licensure of Nursery 3 & 4 by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:
1. Expand the answer to Question 7 to describe how your school will collaborate with agencies and therapists and intergrade their recommendations in the classroom.
2. Provide a revised answer to Question 6 on the strategies used to differentiate learning.

New Story. Application was presented to the Board. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board mentioned that the progress reports and the schedules look great. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by G. Morris, New was approved for licensure of Special Education: Preschool/Elementary/Secondary (exceptionalities: Autism/SED) by unanimous voice vote.

Refuge Childcare Academy. Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were two representatives in attendance to answer questions from the Board. The Board commented that the answers to application questions were very comprehensive and they applaud the school for serving a need in the community. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K. Hwang, Refuge Childcare Academy was conditionally approved for licensure of Nursery 3 and 4, by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide a revised schedule which reflects the High Scope curriculum adopted by the school.
2. A schedule which is within the 6-hour time frame allowed by PAS policy.

Tiny Tot Child Development Center. Application was presented to the Board for approval. There were three representatives in attendance to answer question from the Board. The Board commends the school on the great application and very thorough answers to the questions. Upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by C. Lopus, Tiny Tot Child Development Center by approved for Nursery 3 and 4 by unanimous voice vote.

Directors for Board Approval

Upon a motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by R. Schomburg, 25 new Education Directors were approved by unanimous voice vote. The Director application for Lisa Antinucci, Merakey Education Center, was withdrawn.

2019 Private Academic Schools Board Meeting Dates

Upon a motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by K. Hwang, the scheduled meetings of the State Board of Private Academic have been approved by unanimous voice vote. The dates of the approved PAS Board meetings are as follows:

January 18, 2019, April 12, 2019, June 21, 2019, August 16, 2019 and October 18, 2019.
DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Plans for the next phase regarding the new PAS revisions will be discussed in 2019.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business and upon a motion by R. Schomburg, seconded by K. Hwang, the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.

Monica L. Washington
Secretary to the Board