



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
State Board of Private Academic Schools

333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126-0333

October 21, 2022

The meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools convened on Friday, October 21, 2022, via a hybrid meeting virtually on Zoom and in-person at the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Heritage A/B room at 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, PA. 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 in Attendance

Jane M. Allis, Chairperson
Jim Buckheit
Lisa King
Carol Lopus
Suzann Morris
Dr. Abby Mahone
Douglas Carlquist

Board Counsel

Robert Tomaine

Staff

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

ROLL CALL

Lilian 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the September 9, 2022, meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools were approved by unanimous voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

Hearing Requests – Robert Tomaine

R. Tomaine reported that there are no active hearing requests.

Presentation of Motions – Sara Hockenberry

No motions were presented.

Previously Submitted Applications – Staff

No previously submitted applications.

NEW BUSINESS.

New Supplemental Applications for Board Approval

16 schools submitted supplemental applications for Board approval.

Little Learning Lamp at Everett, Little Learning Lamp at Rockwood, and Little Learning Lamp at Bedford

The Board recommended Little Learning Lamp at Everett use the same schedule as Little Learning Lamp, Rockwood and Little Learning Lamp, Bedford.

The Board asked for clarification on how the school handles naps and if late naps are a possibility. The school provides quiet time for naps with mats if the children choose. They include relaxing/calming tools.

Upon motion by A. Mahone, seconded by J. Buckheit, ***Little Learning Lamp at Everett, Little Learning Lamp, Rockwood and Little Learning Lamp, Bedford*** supplemental applications were approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Merakey Education Center, Leechburg

The Board commented that using positive metrics for noting progress on a progress report as opposed to language that could be perceived as negative encourages students and parents to engage more with the progress report.

The Board asked if the school's schedule is flexible for small classes. The school responded that kids could get one on one attention.

The Board asked for clarification on the school's expected enrollment of kindergarten students. The school responded that they work with two school districts.

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by C. Lopus, *Merakey Education Center* supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Thrive Acton Academy, Newtown

The Board commended the school's schedule, stating that it spoke well to the school's philosophy.

The Board asked for clarification on how many parent conferences the school has. The school responded that there are two conferences scheduled.

The Board asked if the school had a plan for teacher absences. The school responded that they have three people, including an aide and generally have two teachers present.

The Board encouraged the school to develop a more robust way to communicate their unique program to parents.

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by L. King, *Thrive Acton Academy* supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Westminster Nursery, Pittsburgh

Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by A. Mahone, *Westminster Nursery* supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Adelphoi Ed at Hartford Heights

D. Carlquist recused himself from voting for Adelphoi Ed at Hartford Heights.

Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by J. Buckheit, *Adelphoi Ed at Hartford Heights* supplemental application was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Upon motion by A. Mahone, seconded by L. King, *Building Blocks AEP, CIDDS, Clarke PA, Day School, Early Edge Preschool, Goddard School, Enola, Kiddie Academy, New Story, Carlisle* and *Owl Hill Learning Center*, supplemental applications were approved by unanimous voice vote.

New Schools Applications for Board Approval

Four new schools were presented for Board approval.

Access Learning Academy, Pottstown

The Board recommended the school's progress report include more positive metrics.

The Board commended the school's answer to their plan for parent communication and involvement.

The Board asked for clarification to question 13, regarding available training for staff. The school responded that mandatory reporting, CPR classes as well as anxiety behavior and suicide prevention are available through IU Pattan. The teachers also receive training support for the classes they teach.

The Board commented that the schedule seemed to having overlapping times teachers. The school clarified that this was a clerical error.

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by L. King, ***Access Learning Academy*** new school application was approved with two conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

- Provide a revised schedule for middle and high school with appropriate timeframe for language arts
- Provide current letter from Pottstown SD

KBS Academy, Kingston

The Board commented that the school had an interesting program. They appreciated the consistency in working with parents.

The Board asked for an update to the school's answer to question 22 regarding contracting with other companies for staff. The school responded they currently have a contract in place for OT and Speech.

The Board recommended the school review their progress report.

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by S. Morris, ***KBS Academy*** new school application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Owl Hill Learning, Lancaster

The Board supported the work being done at the school, appreciate the school's work in helping kids prepare for the next stage of their education.

The Board commended the school's comprehensive progress report.

Upon motion by S. Morris, seconded by L. King, ***Owl Hill Learning*** new school application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

South Hills Child Development Center, Erie

The Board commended the school’s application as well as the individualized and rich progress report that is provided to parents.

The Board commented that the school had great answers to the question on special needs and professional development.

They commended the school on their wealth of materials available to students.

Upon motion by A. Mahone, seconded by D. Carlquist, ***South Hills Child Development Center*** new school application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

Education Directors for Board Approval

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

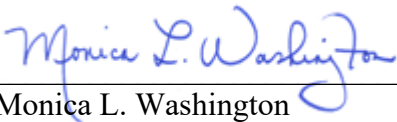
DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

Regulations have been provided to the Board. Questions and/or comments should be directed to P. Lord and J. Allis on November 11, 2022.

During the January, 2023 Pre-Board Meeting, the Board will discuss the regulations so that they may be presented at the January, 2023 Meeting for public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business and upon a motion by C. Lopus, seconded by L. King, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04 a.m. by unanimous voice vote.



Monica L. Washington
Secretary to the Board