June 16, 2023

The June 2023 meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools convened on June 16, 2023, via a virtual meeting on Zoom and in-person meeting 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 am by Jane Allis, Chairperson.

Board Members

Jane Allis  
Jim Buckheit  
Douglas Carlquist  
Michelle Figlar  
Carol Lopus  
Dr. Abby Mahone  
Suzann Morris

Patrick Lord, Senior Board Counsel

Staff

Sara Hockenberry, Assistant Counsel  
Monica L. Washington, Board Secretary  
Mary Anne Olley, OCDEL  
Renee Shade, Staff  
Tina Weaver, 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES
Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by J. Buckheit, the minutes of the April 21, 2023, meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools was approved by unanimous voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT
There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS
Hearing Requests – Patrick Lord
There was one active hearing request.

Presentation of Motions – Sara Hockenberry
There were no motions to present.

Previously Submitted Applications

Pittsburgh Prep LLC, Pittsburgh
Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by D. Carlquist, Pittsburgh Prep LLC application was approved with 2 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. FBI clearance for one teacher
2. TB certificate for one teacher

Western PA Montessori, Allison Park
Western PA Montessori withdrew their application.

NEW BUSINESS

New Supplemental Applications for Board Approval
12 schools submitted supplemental applications for Board approval.

Adelphi Education at Hartford Heights, North Huntingdon
Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by A. Mahone, Adelphi Education at Hartford Heights, supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote. The approval
includes an exception to limit of 6 hours for kindergarten due to bussing issues. D. Carlquist recused themselves from this vote.

**Grace Christian Education Center, Coal Center**

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by C. Lopus, *Grace Christian Education Center* supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

**Hoffman Academy, Littlestown**

Upon motion by A. Mahone, seconded by D. Carlquist, *Hoffman Academy* supplemental application was approved with two conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Multiple certifications and clearances
2. Approval of appropriately certified math teacher

**Jack and Jill Preschool, Lebanon**

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by D. Carlquist, *Jack and Jill Preschool* supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

**Pittsburgh ABA, Pittsburgh**

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

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by D. Carlquist, *ABK Learning & Development Ctr, Pittsburgh, BCCC Children’s Creative Learning Center, Butler, Easterseals of Southeastern PA, Philadelphia, Hosanna House Inc., Pittsburgh, Jefferson Academy, North Pocono, Sylvan Learning of Lancaster, and Watson Institute, Sewickley* supplemental applications were approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

**New Schools and Directors for Board Approval**

11 new schools were presented for Board approval.

**Anderson Center for Autism, New York**

J. Allis moved to send Anderson Center for Autism’s application to a hearing for consideration of issues raised by staff with respect to the application. Pursuant to this motion counsel to the board is appointed as a hearing officer to conduct a hearing without a report and recommendation pursuant to the General Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure. Seconded by J. Buckheit and approved by unanimous voice vote.
**Bright Beginnings, Toughkenamon**

Upon motion by M. Figlar, seconded by D. Carlquist, *Bright Beginnings* initial application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

**River Rock Academy, Clifton Heights**

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by D. Carlquist, *River Rock Academy, Clifton Heights* initial application was approved with three conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. 1 teacher clearance
3. Occupancy permit

**River Rock Academy, Douglasville**

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by J. Buckheit, *River Rock Academy, Douglasville* initial application was approved with 3 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. 3 current letters of support from school districts
3. Appropriately certified regulation education teacher for grades 4-6

**River Rock Academy, Lancaster**

Upon motion by J. Buckheit, seconded by A. Mahone, *River Rock Academy, Lancaster* initial application was approved with 1 condition by unanimous voice vote. The condition that must be met before licensure is:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area

**River Rock Academy, Newville**

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by C. Lopus, *River Rock Academy, Newville* initial application was approved with 2 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. Provide one additional current letter of support by a local school district

**River Rock Academy, Red Lion**
Upon motion by A. Mahone, seconded by J. Buckheit, **River Rock Academy, Red Lion** initial application was approved with 2 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. Provide 3 current letters for support from school districts

**River Rock Academy, Shiremanstown**

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by C. Lopus, **River Rock Academy, Shiremanstown** initial application was approved with 3 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. 1 additional current letter of support from local school districts
3. 1 remaining certification for a teacher

**River Rock Academy, Sinking Spring**

Upon motion by A. Mahone, seconded by D. Carlquist, **River Rock Academy, Sinking Spring** initial application was approved with 2 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. Provide 3 current letters of support from local school districts

**River Rock Academy, Spring Grove**

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by J. Buckheit, **River Rock Academy, Spring Grove** initial application was approved with 2 conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions that must be met before licensure are:

1. Provide evidence of a standards aligned curriculum in each subject area
2. Provide 3 current letters of support from local school districts

For all River Rock Academy locations, the Board requested a letter of assurance stating that regular education students will be in classrooms taught by appropriately certified regular education teachers.

**Total Learning Centers, Wexford**

Upon motion by C. Lopus, seconded by D. Carlquist, **Total Learning Centers, Wexford** initial application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.
**Education Directors for Board Approval**

Upon motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by M. Figlar, the listing of new Education Directors was approved by unanimous voice vote.

**DISCUSSION/INFORMATION**

P. Lord noted he is working with the Governor’s Office to review regulations, more information forthcoming.

The Board thanked Tina Weaver for her contributions to the State Board of Private Academic Schools and wished her a happy retirement.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further items of business and upon a motion by C. Lopus, seconded by A. Mahone, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 am.

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Monica L. Washington  
Secretary to the Board