



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

State Board of Private Academic Schools

607 South Drive, Harrisburg PA 17120-0600

MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2025

The meeting of the State Board of Private Academic Schools convened on Friday, January 17, 2025, via hybrid meeting on Microsoft Teams and in-person at Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN) in 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 9:02 a.m. by Jane Allis, Chairperson.

Board Members in Attendance

Jane Allis, Chairperson
Dan Borden
Douglas Carlquist
Emily Hand
Carol Lopus
Dr. Abby Mahone
Suzann Morris

Board Counsel

Patrick Lord

Staff

Monica Washington, School Services Director
Renee Shade, Secretary to the Board
Sara Hockenberry, Assistant Counsel
Zachary Stritzinger, Assistant Counsel
Anita Harvin, Staff
Jamee Joppy, Staff
Kenneth Krawchuk, Staff
Stephanie Nauss, Staff
Fianne van Schaaik, Staff
Mary Anne Olley, Office of Child Development & Early Learning
Kathleen Senft, Teacher Certification

VISITOR ATTENDEES

Christina Spielbauer, River Rock Academy
Jill Crouse-Wolf, River Rock Academy
Holly Sawyer, River Rock Academy
Diane Force, PA Montessori Alliance
Mary Ann Jackson, The Montessori School

ROLL CALL

Fianne van Schaaik 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

INTRODUCTION & SWEARING IN OF NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Ms. Shade introduced Dan Borden and Emily Hand as new board members. Both were officially sworn in.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Carol Lopus nominated Jane Allis as Chair

Jane Allis nominated Douglas Carlquist as Vice Chair

Upon a motion by Dr. Mahone and seconded by C. Lopus, the above mentioned officers were approved by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by A. Mahone, the October 18, 2024, Board meeting minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

OLD BUSINESS

Hearing Requests

P. Lord reported there was one request for a hearing which was being handled in a pre-hearing conference stage.

Presentation of Motions

S. Hockenberry reported there were no motions to be presented.

Previously Submitted Applications

Pathways Education Center- Oil City, Venango Co, Supplemental Application was initially presented to the Board for consideration at the October 18, 2024, meeting and was tabled.

The application was presented again for consideration. Upon a motion by D. Carlquist and seconded by A. Mahone, Pathways Education Center's supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

New Supplemental Applications for Board Approval

14 supplemental applications were submitted for Board approval.

1. Adelphoi, Latrobe

D. Carlquist recused himself from voting. Upon a motion by S. Morris and seconded by E. Hand, Adelphoi, Latrobe's supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

2. Devereux PA Mapleton School, Malvern

Upon a motion by A. Mahone and seconded by D. Carlquist, Devereux, Malvern's supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

3. Edison Early Learning Center, Carbondale

Upon a motion by E. Hand and seconded by S. Morris, Edison ELC's supplemental application was approved as presented by unanimous voice vote.

4. River Rock, Cressona

Upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by E. Hand, River Rock, Cressona's supplemental application was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Remaining Supplemental Applications

Devereux PA Landensburg

Doylestown Hospital Children's Village, Doylestown

Kiddie Academy, Feasterville

Red Bridge Montessori House, Collegeville

St. Stephen's Nursery School, Fairview

Tender Love for Children, Altoona

Watson Institute LEAP Preschool, Pittsburgh

William Penn Academy, Greenville

Zhang Sah School, Philadelphia

Owl Hill Learning Center, Lancaster – One condition – submit the remaining Act 168 clearance

Upon a motion by A. Mahone, seconded by C. Lopus, the remaining supplemental applications were approved as presented by unanimous voice vote with 1 condition for Owl Hill Learning Center.

New School Applications for Board Approval

Three new schools were presented for Board approval.

1. Apple Tree Nursery & Primary School, Forty Foot

Upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by A. Mahone, Apple Tree Nursery & Primary School's new school application was approved with three conditions by unanimous voice vote. The conditions were:

1. Update all documents with the new school name.

2. Provide revised schedules for preschool and kindergarten with narrative detail about how learning takes place during the different time periods.
3. Provide an additional page to the progress reports for preschool and kindergarten with more information about a child's understanding in reading and math and enhanced information on science, social studies, and the arts.

2. Country Charm Early Learning Center, Drums

Upon a motion by A. Mahone, seconded by C. Lopus, Country Charm's new school application was approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. River Rock, Williamsport

Upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by E. Hand, River Rock's new school application was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Education Directors for Board Approval

Upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by C. Lopus, the listing of new Education Directors was approved by unanimous voice vote, with the removal of Ed Director, Jill Koch.

Montessori Certification Policy

J. Allis read the Montessori policy and indicated that the policy only applies to nursery and kindergarten teachers in Montessori schools. Maryanne Olley requested a copy of the policy.

Upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by E. Hand, the Montessori policy was approved by unanimous voice vote.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION

R. Shade stated that she will be reviewing Board policies and will email policies to Board members to review and make any changes, if necessary, and any informal policies will be made formal. She also stated that if the Board wants to create other policies, they should discuss.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items of business and upon a motion by D. Carlquist, seconded by A. Mahone, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 a.m. by unanimous voice vote.



Renee Shade
Secretary to the Board