PCCS Board of Director's Meeting
Approved Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 23rd, 2025, at 7:00PM
Vicky Ranney Library
1571 Jones Point Road Grayslake, IL 60030

Board Present			**Staff Present**
Matt Earl	Ankur Bhatia	Steve Heroux	Geoff Deigan
Josh Pejsach	Gabi White	Leah Stender	
JoAnn Stewart	Ankur Bhatia		

Call to Order President – Called to order by Matthew Earl at 7:05 pm.

Motion to Approve Amended Agenda *(moved public comment ahead of closed session)* – 1st by Steve, 2nd by JoAnn Stewart, All votes aye.

Public Comment –

Five members of public present, comments and concerns summarized and not verbatim.

Meghan Dawson – Expressed frustration with cumulative punishment, an entire class is being punished for the actions of one. Students being held back from going out to recess. IA informed students that they did not meet expectations. Student emailed looking for clarification on accountabilities, and IA punished for that. 2nd issue, 7th/8th grade schedule being flipped and potential impact on academics.

Kristen Gram – Here to mention concern as a parent about the safety of our children; wants to understand what the school is doing to keep out children safe. Cameras are a comfort, but as a very very concerned parent, wants clarification on what is being done to keep our children safe..

Mary Hurka – 3rd year as a room parent, wanted to echo Kristen's concerns about safety, security, and the communication surrounding those measures. Big fan of the focus on outdoor learning, but would like to see some kind of presence of security at the school and communication thereof. Not necessarily looking for specifics, but more a blueprint of how it's going, reassurance, and a physical presence of security at the school. Have had numerous families come forward. Would like better communication and again, a physical present of security. Gave an example of a recap after events based on her recent.

Peyton Schrag – No comments.

Kristina Owen – Kindergarten mom, here to echo safety concerns since it is an open campus. Suggested something to delineate staff on campus, so they can more clearly indicate who is a trusted adult and who is not.

Motion to Enter in to Closed Session for: 1st by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Leah Stender.

Discussion Related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(3) - The selection of a person to fill a public office, as defined in this Act, including a vacancy in a public office, when the public body is given power to appoint under law or ordinance, or the discipline, performance or removal of the occupant of a public office, when the public body is given power to remove the occupant under law or ordinance.

1. **Board-Appointed Candidates Interviews**

Return to Open Session 8:35PM

Discussion Agenda

2. Discussion of Board Retreat, Succession Planning / Next Steps –

Matt Earl opened the floor for feedback from the attendees. Josh Pejsach shared that he felt it was a productive, successful retreat but would like to see what comes next. Josh Pejsach also shared that there was a disconnect among the Board Members with regards to where we are as a school currently and would like to dive into the numbers to get to factual, objective measurement. Leah Stender shared that the initial survey should have been a blind survey. JoAnn Stewart asked Josh Pejsach if based on this retreat, would he be in favour of having another one next year, and Josh Pejsach said yes. Gabi White, Matt Earl, and Leah Stender also shared that it was a productive meeting and look forward to future ones.

Josh Pejsach asked Matt Earl what next steps are. Matt Earl shared that the facilitator will have his report hopefully by the next meeting. A brief discussion of potential deliverables ensued. JoAnn Stewart suggested that a "Strategic Plan Update" be added to every Board Meeting Agenda moving forward. Josh Pejsach shared that he is working on a document.

3. Biannual Review of Closed Session Minutes and Recordings –

Matt Earl shared past legal advice that we keep Closed Session Minutes and Recordings closed.

4. Committee Updates:

- **Outreach –** Gabi White shared that they had some new members at the meeting, and that they went through an overview of the historic purpose of the committee and discussed how they could better utilize the committee to further the mission.

- **Finance** – Ankur Bhatia shared that they have a new member of the finance committee. Discussion of the FY26 budget, and a deep-dive into the numbers, the committee felt the budget was in line with expectations. Ankur Bhatia shared that the committee is in support of Board approval of the numbers presented in this Agenda.

- **Elections** – Steve Heroux shared the results of the Board Appointed position applications. Additionally, the committee discussed potential updates to requirements of parent-elect and Board appointed to make them more aligned.

5. Fine Arts Update and Next Steps

Geoff Deigan shared that the Fine Arts Update is not fully completed, as the final inspection is October 10^{th} for final occupancy and some certification testing. From there, the Net-Zero team will take it through their modeling and hopefully certify the building.

Consent Agenda:

6. Recast FY26 Budget and August Financial Statements
7. ROE Annual Inspection
8. Motion to Approve Open Session Minutes of Previous Board and Committee Meetings
9. Motion to Accept Reports on Consent Agenda
#6, #7, and #9 were all motioned as one, 1^{st} by JoAnn Stewart, 2^{nd} by Gabi White, all votes aye.
#8 Motioned by Steve Heroux, 2^{nd} by Leah Stender, all votes aye.

Motion to enter Closed Session by Steve Heroux, 2^{nd} by Josh Pejsach; roll call, all votes aye.

Entered Closed Session at 9:08 PM
Reenter Open Session at 9:48 PM.

Public Comment – No public present.

Action Agenda:

1A Approve Board Appointed Candidate(s)

Motion to Approve Peyton Shrag to the Board of Directors – 1st Steve Heroux, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; roll call all votes aye.

Motion to Approve Gabi White to the Board of Directors – 1st JoAnn Stewart, 2nd by Steve Heroux; roll call all votes ay, Gabi White abstains (6 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention).

3A/12A Motion to Approve Action for Closed Session Archived Minutes – 1st by JoAnn Stewart, 2nd by Josh Pejsach, roll call all votes aye.

10A Approve New Staff Members

- Motion to approve Maintenance Support by Steve Heroux, 2nd by JoAnn Stewart
- Motion to approve the contract with Speech Path specialists for the resource teacher by JoAnn Stewart 2nd Leah Stender, roll call all votes aye.
- Motion to conditionally approve Instructional Assistant pending administrative investigation by JoAnn Stewart, 2nd by Josh Pejsach; roll call all votes aye.

New Business

- Josh Pejsach raised the issue of cumulative discipline and concerns raised by parents. JoAnn Stewart recommended that Matt Earl add the item to the agenda for the Academic Excellence committee for the next meeting and communicate that to the public.

- JoAnn Stewart also raised the issue of the safety concerns raised in the public comment section, and encouraged adding that to the next Board meeting, but also encouraged communication be sent out that it is being addressed before then.

- Josh Pejsach raised the question of secession planning as an agenda item at the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn by Leah Stender; 2nd by JoAnn Stewart. All votes aye.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 PM.

A copy of the board documents for this meeting is available on the school web site.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Heroux, Secretary.