



PCCS Board of Director's Meeting
Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 7:00PM
Vicky Ranney Library
1571 Jones Point Road Grayslake, IL 60030

Board Present

Matt Earl
Ankur Bhatia
Peyton Schrag
Rebekka Herrington
Gabi White
Meghan Dawson
(remote)

Steve Heroux
Leah Stender

Staff Present

Geoff Deigan

Call to Order President – Matt Earl call the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

Public Comment – No Public Present

Discussion Agenda

1. **Lottery Update/Drawing** – Geoff Deigan shared that the lottery has currently well-surpassed the highest lottery engagement ever. The date of the lottery is Wednesday, March 4th at 7:00 PM in the Byron Colby Barn. Geoff committed to having an email sent out to confirm Board attendance and whether an agenda will need to be posted.
2. **Board Retreat**
 - a. Doodle Poll Results – Matt Earl shared that Wednesday, June 17th was the most available date selected and will be used as the date moving forward. Rebekka Herrington confirmed we would like to use the same venue; Geoff offered to take care of reserving the facility.
 - b. Facilitator Proposals – Peyton Schrag led the discussion of the four facilitator proposals received, including his requirement that each facilitator would include a strategic session before the retreat, and a follow up meeting afterwards. Peyton shared that he felt Beth Napleton's proposal was the most professionally presented and possibly the most acutely qualified. Matt Earl asked Geoff if any of the proposals were outside the budget scope for the Board Retreat, and Geoff confirmed that they are all within the same acceptable budgetary range. Geoff confirmed that while the cost would hit Budget FY 26, the cost would be allocated to FY 27. Finally, after discussion, Geoff confirmed next steps will be to book the facilitator in the event that the Board approves a proposal in the Action Agenda Item 2A.
3. **ISBE Annual Review** – Matt confirmed that the last 3 versions of the ISBE Annual Review were received by the Board and asked if there were any discussion items. Gabi White confirmed that in some categories, the highest possible score is "Meets".
4. **5Essentials Survey Pulse Check** – Geoff shared that as of 10:00 AM 2.24, 95% of students have taken the survey, and were earmarked today and tomorrow for taking the survey. Some students have not completed the survey but will have time to do so tomorrow. This is the highest rate in the last 5 years. 31 teachers have completed the survey so far, 79%. 80% is the high-water mark. With the parent population, we are currently at 27%; Geoff shared that there is some discrepancy between the total # of Respondents category; discussion ensued about whether multiple students meant that you could take one survey per student or per household. Leah Stender shared that all three goals have already been hit with weeks to spare.

5. Committee Updates

a. Academics –

- i. Matt Earl shared that the committee reviewed the success of the therapy dog program (Emi). They have had less than 1% opt-out. Emi has been in every classroom on campus, and there has been strong positive feedback. Matt also confirmed that Emi is included in PCCS' safety plans. Matt shared that the committee was discussing a fundraiser for 'Canine's for Comfort', and Gabi White shared that Emi has been a recipient of their charity and felt strongly that a fundraiser would be successful. Different options were discussed.
- ii. Matt also shared that Tony Zamiar had additional details about the status of the 5Essentials surveys, discussed in item #4 above.
- iii. Matt shared that the committee discussed increased Electives in the curriculum, and the various impacts that would have on the shared resources throughout the school.
- iv. IAR testing schedule was also discussed, as well as ISA testing.

b. Governance –

- i. Rebekka Herrington shared that the committee discussed the ED Review form, and the logistics of storing the reviews in a safe, compliant manner.

c. Elections –

- i. Rebekka Herrington raised the possibility of increasing the number of parent elected positions in the upcoming election cycle.
- ii. Steve Heroux shared that the date of the election cycle initiation is 3/13/26.

Consent Agenda

6. **Business Manager Report /January Financial Statements** – Geoff Deigan shared the summary provided in the packet. Peyton Schrag asked about #5100 being higher than budget, and Geoff clarified the reason for being above budget in the payment cycle. Meghan Dawson had a question about item #5400, Administration Expenses being \$43k above budget. Gabi White clarified that this had been discussed by Tony Zamiar (at a separate meeting) and was in large part due to replacing new Chromebooks that were 5 years old or older.
7. **Motion to Approve Open Session Minutes of Previous Board and Committee Meetings** – Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Gabi White; all votes aye.
8. **Motion to Accept Reports on Consent Agenda** – Moved by Rebekka Herrington, 2nd by Steve Heroux; all votes aye.

Motion to enter closed session by Rebekka Herrington, 2nd by Steve Heroux. Roll call, all votes aye.
Entered Closed session at 8:41 PM.

Closed Session:

Discussion related to 5ILCS 120/2(c) 21-Discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, whether for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes mandated by Section 2.06

9. Review Closed Session Minutes from Previous Board Meetings

Discussion related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(1) - The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

10. New Employee(s)/ Resignation(s)

Discussion Related to 5ILCS 120/2(c)(11) Litigation, when an action against, affecting, or on behalf of the public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting.

11. Legal Bills

Returned from Closed Session at 8:47 PM

Public Comment 10 Minutes – No public present.

Action Agenda

- 2A – Board Retreat Facilitator Approval – Motion by Rebekka Herrington to move forward with the proposal by LeveledUp by Beth Napleton, not to exceed \$15,000 total. 2nd by Leah Stender. Roll call vote, all votes aye.
- 9A – Closed Session Minutes from Previous Board Meetings – Moved by Gabi White, 2nd by Leah Stender; Roll call, all votes aye.
- 10A – Approve New Employee(s)/Accept Resignation(s) – Moved by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Leah Stender; Roll call, all votes aye.
- 11A – Approve Legal Bills – No legal bills, no vote.

New Business:

Matt shared the possibility of allowing the Board to open the election to two candidates instead of one. If agreed, Geoff offered to draft a document to summarize the discussion.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Steve Heroux, 2nd by Leah Stender; all votes aye.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted by Steve Heroux, Secretary.

Thank you for attending the meeting of the PCCS Board of Education. Individual board members do not respond to public comment. For questions or comments, please e-mail the Board at board@pcharterschool.org. The PCCS Board of Directors consists of:

President: Matt Earl
Secretary: Steve Heroux
Peyton Schrag

Vice President: Rebekka Herrington
Meghan Dawson
Leah Stender

Treasurer: Ankur Bhatia
Josh Pejsach
Gabi White