

Deep Roots Charter School

Public Meeting
Board of Trustees
Deep Roots Charter School
3556 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134
February 13, 2024 6:30PM
Virtual
<https://deeprootscs-org.zoom.us/j/7186698028?pwd=ajFYcXBhZ3FpbE81Rm9Ekx2TFVJUT09>
Meeting ID: 718 669 8028
Passcode: 207583

Called to Order 6:34p

Roll Call:

- **Present Board Members:**
 - Eric White (remote)
 - Valerie Joell (remote)
 - Gwen Bailey (remote)
 - Debi Durso (remote)
 - Victoria Sipes (remote - arrived at 6.36)

Others in Attendance:

- Lucilla Perry-Edwards, CEO and Principal of DRCS
- Charmaine Bailey, AP of Culture (arrived at 6:34)
- Christopher Barrett, legal counsel
- Danae Russum, 3rd ELA
- Hychia Troutt, 2nd Grade
- Julia Vogt, Self-Contained Special Education Teacher
- Marchelle Roberts, Operations Manager
- Mishel Williams, AP of Special Education
- Theresa Lugo, 5th grade ELA teacher and PTO liaison
- Kevin Corcoran, Charter Choices

1. Approval of January 9, 2024 meeting minutes

- Motion: Debi Durso
- Second: Eric White
- **Passed with all approval - R -240213-01**

2. Public Comment: To register for public comment at a Deep Roots Charter School Board Meetings, please call 267-399-3727 no later than 3:00pm one day prior to the scheduled meeting. For more information, email info@deeprootscs.org or submit an inquiry at <https://deeprootscs.org/contact-us/.g>. Each person will be given three (3) minutes to speak.

- Danae Russum - 3rd Grade teacher
 - Affirmed the leadership team
 - Asks for less of a fixation on assessment - "Assessed for 10 days last quarter"
 - Named that social emotional skills are holding back student learning
 - We're not meeting the needs of students who are multiple grade levels behind
 - Focus more on social emotional skills, and staffing concerns

- Eric White - Board member - responded with a question
 - What does putting more effort into social-emotional skills look like to you?
 - Danae's response - More consistent training for staff, whether you're outsourcing a curriculum or program that could either train teachers, having time within the school day block to (ex: 20-30 mins a day where all students are getting social emotional skill building).
- Gwen, and Debi commented that they agree that social-emotional learning is important and it works in tandem with academic support - "it's a both and"
- **Next step:** School oversight committee will discuss social emotional learning

3. Reports

School Report from Lucilla Perry, CEO

- Reported on: Operations, Culture, Specialized Services, Instruction, Coaching (evidence of progress), Charter Renewal (need to get signed by EOW) Hiring (fully hired!)
- Attendance:
 - Our attendance dropped – Snow Delays have impacted this number
 - Looked at other schools that say if you miss "x" amount of days we'll need to have an retention conversation
 - Kids are getting promoted to the next grade who have over 30 absences
- See CEO report document from 2.13 for details

Governance Report from Debi Durso, Board Vice President

- Didn't meet last month
- Focus areas: Board recruitment, Policies and Bylaws review, working and organizing our policy so we can get into
- Statements of financial interest - Due May 1st
- Monitoring Act 55 Training
- Aim to submit our info early - Debi will share info with the board by the end of the week, so we can act asap.

School Oversight from Valerie Joell, Board Secretary

- School Oversight Committee has been meeting
- Val/Lucilla check-in 1x/wk monitoring attendance and student achievement
- Strong response to data cycle in place

Parent Teacher Association from Theresa Lugo, 5th Grade ELA Teacher

- Provided update on current status of PTO - PTO meets regulatory, plans event to spread joy with students (ex: upcoming dance) -
- Hope to become a registered PTA vs. PTO
- Board members can connect with Lucilla to donate
- Eric asked - Are there goals as a dollar amount? as well as clarifying questions in
 - Answer: No dollar amount defined yet

Finance Report from Kevin Corcorran, Charter Choices and Eric White, Treasurer

- Next year will be a more challenging financial year with the removal of ESSER funding
- Could be beneficial to make purchases for next year within this year's budget

4. New Business

Charter Renewal Update

Action: Vote on the Procurement Policy updates that reflect updated federal requirements

- Motion: Victoria Sipes
- Second: Debi Durso
- **Passed with all approval - R -240213-02**

Action: Vote on school improvements to be obtained through School Safety Grant

- Motion: Victoria Sipes
- Second: Eric White
- **Passed with all approval - R -240213-03**

Action: Vote on updated Special Education request

- Motion to move to executive session - Victoria Sipes
- Second to move to executive session - Debi Duro
- **Passed with all approval - R -240213-04**

Executive Session

- Motion: Debi - motion to approve student placement as discussed in exec session
- Seconded: Victoria
- **Passed with all approval - R -240213-05**

5. Adjournment - 8:06

- Motion: Eric
- Second: Victoria

- VJ** Valerie Joell (Me)
- LP** Lucilla Perry (Host)
- GB** Gwen Bailey
- CB** Charmaine Bailey
- CB** Christopher Barrett
- DR** Danae Russum
- DD** Debi Durso
- EW** Eric White
- HT** Hychia T
- JV** Julia V.
- KC** Kevin Corcoran
- MR** Marchelle Roberts
- MW** Mishel Williams
- ML** Mrs. Lugo

Victoria Sipes