



**PUBLIC MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Deep Roots Charter School**
3556 Frankford Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19134
May 14, 2024 6:30PM

Call to order: 6:33

1. Roll Call

Board Members

- Debi Durso
- Eric White
- Gwen Bailey
- Valerie Joell
- Kim Griffith (7:40)

Others in Attendance

- John Widmer (Director of Operations)
- Lucilla Perry (Executive Director/Principal)
- Mishel Williams (Director of Special Education)
- Kevin Corcoran (Charter Choice)
- Christopher Barrett (Counsel)

2. Approval of Minutes

Action. To approve the minutes of the public meeting of April 9, 2024 as presented to the Board.

- Motion:** Debi Durso
- Second:** Eric White
- Passed:** All approve - R -240514-01

3. 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.

4. Reports

School Report from Lucilla Perry, CEO

- Enrollment notes delivered by John Widmer

1. Daily attendance:
 - a. Wednesday - High 80s
 - b. We're generally in the 90s
 2. Campaign for re-enrollment
 3. Open houses and tours = Every wednesday afternoon
 4. 5/24: BBQ - Re-enrollment party
 5. Building refresh looks great!
 6. Enrollment has increased
 7. DOO will manage the Culture team given his background with culture
- ii. Specialized Services: Mishel Williams delivered
 1. Sped Count continues to increase - seems like we'll end the year with 92 students and we anticipate 7 rising kindergarteners
 2. SpEd Dept: Planning a career day
 3. Last day of school June 7th
 - iii. Instruction: Lucilla Perry delivered
 1. All K-2 teachers have been working with a CLI coach (next year)
 2. AP of I in K-2 resigned (not new news)
 3. MAP assessment coming up about last week in May
 4. 2nd reading and 3rd math are lagging academically
 - a. There will be summer programming for 2nd grade reading
 5. Kinder graduation and No 5th graduation
 - iv. Charter Renewal: Lucilla Perry delivered
 - v. Staffing:
 1. No more hiring for this school year, but we are hiring for next year
 2. School video from fun Fridays went viral and now ABC 6 is coming to do a mini report on Fun Fridays
 3. SpEd is a tad bit harder for us to hire
 4. Leaders will work with Vertex to support with marketing strategy
 - vi. Follow-up questions
 1. Questions about how we're supporting special education

Governance Report from Debi Durso, Board Vice President

- vii. Focusing on board recruitment
 1. Strategy: Reach out to our networks
 2. Priority skills: Legal, real-estate, fundraising
 3. Have succession planning
- viii. Reaching out to an organization that helps recruit board members
- ix. Ensuring we have a complete set of policies
 - x. Employee and Student Handbooks
 - xi. Board cal needs to be reviewed
 - xii. Gov. Committee took over the agenda for the board
 - xiii. Act 55 must be completed by end of July

School Oversight from Valerie Joell, Board Secretary

- xiv. PSSA and Attendance updates

- xv. Contingency plan when there's risk of inconsistent instruction?

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

- xvi. Current year - "In good shape, meeting all metrics"

- xvii. Discussion about the work SpEd

Additional notes from Lucilla

- xviii. Teacher/Leader program

- xix. Hiring someone part time to support front desk

- xx. We're reaching out to local universities to get teaching candidates. Kim G. recommended also framing this as more intentional programming for teaching assistants that can help them learn DRCS's systems etc, and if they're strong it could lead to an offer.

Motion to accept all reports : Eric White

Second: Kim Griffith

Passed: All approve - R -240514-02

5. New Business

Action. To authorize the CEO, in consultation with legal counsel, to negotiate, execute, and deliver an Agreement to resolve a special education dispute concerning Student ID # 10054798 as presented to the Board, and to provide for payment of legal fees in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.

- i. Executive Session

- 1. Adjourned public session at **7:40** to enter into executive session to discuss matters protected by "attorney client privilege"

- 2. Attendees: Board members + Mishel Willaims (Sped Director), and

- a. **Motion:** Eric White

- b. **Second:** Valerie Joell

- c. **Passed:** all approve R -240514-03

- ii. Executive Session Adjourned: 7:57

Action. To approve the annual budget, including personnel salaries and benefits, for the 2024-2025 fiscal year as presented to the Board.

- iii. **Motion:** Debi Durso

- iv. **Approve:** Eric White

- v. **Passed** with all approve R -240514-04

Action. Reserved

5. Adjournment - 8:07pm

Motion: Eric White

Second: Debi Durso

All approve - R -240514-05