

**YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
By conference telephone call on March 29, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Attending by Telephone: Martin Brigham, Alfred Essandoh, Jared Farbman (joined at 4:15 p.m.), Erin Horvat, Kiley Smith Kelly, Khalilah Lawson, Melanie McCottry, Michael McPhilmy, James Mergiotti, James Multari, Roxanne Tillman, Robert Totaro, Sai Yerrapathruni.

Absent: Scott Lillis, Nathan Norstrud, David Thomas.

Staff attending: Ameen Akbar, Scott Emerick, Eva Lexie.

This special meeting was called to discuss and vote on the expulsion of student AB. An expulsion hearing was held on March 23, 2018 with Director of Student Life Ameen Akbar, and Melanie McCottry attending as the Board representative. A memorandum summarizing the hearing and related recommendations was provided to board members in advance of this meeting.

M. Brigham, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

- A. Akbar thanked M. McCottry for participating in the hearing. He reviewed the background that led up to the hearing, and explained that student AB chose not to attend the hearing.
- The initial recommendations from A. Akbar and M. McCottry were as follows:
 1. That AB be expelled for the first 3 weeks of Session 6, from Monday, April 2, 2018 to Monday, April 23, 2018.
 2. That AB attend alternative placement at WOW for 3 weeks once reenrolled on Monday, April 2, 2018.
 3. That AB meet with the YouthBuild behavior specialist weekly once reenrolled.
 4. That AB meet with the YouthBuild counselor weekly once reenrolled.
- There was extensive discussion about the circumstances and the recommendations.
 - AB began the year as a very good student and then got off track.
 - There has been a history of threats made by the student and by a friend of the student who is not enrolled at YouthBuild. Concerns were expressed about potential safety issues arising from these threats, and there was a discussion about ways to mitigate these issues.
 - S. Emerick stated that staff members have been drafting safety policies and procedures and that these will be given to the board for review and input at the next board meeting.
 - Because of these concerns board members felt a longer expulsion was warranted.
 - The student needs to understand that the behavior is serious and that it cannot be tolerated in the future.
- J. Farbman joined the meeting during this discussion.

- After discussion, the revised recommendations to be voted on are:
 1. That AB be expelled for all of session 6, from Monday, April 2, 2018 through Friday, May 4, 2018.
 2. That after the first three weeks, AB be required to attend another formal meeting with a board member in order to gauge AB's recognition of responsibility and willingness to move forward at YouthBuild Philadelphia. If AB attends and is ready to proceed, then AB will be offered access to the services of the YouthBuild behavior specialist and counselor during the remaining weeks of the expulsion, and the following additional recommendations will go into effect:
 3. That AB be eligible to reenroll on Monday, May 7, 2018 and be assigned to attend alternative placement at WOW for 3 weeks once reenrolled.
 4. That AB meet with the YouthBuild behavior specialist weekly once reenrolled.
 5. That AB meet with the YouthBuild counselor weekly once reenrolled.

Thirteen board members were present to vote on the following resolutions:

- **Motion** by R. Tillman: **To approve the recommendation to expel student AB from April 2 through May 4, and contingent upon the student attending a required meeting after the first three weeks, to approve the recommendation for alternative placement for three weeks after reenrollment as well as the additional recommendations for support.** E. Horvat second, motion **unanimously approved.**
- S. Yerrapathruni suggested there be additional security measures taken and a heightened awareness in the interim. A. Akbar agreed to provide the front desk security station with a photo of AB and the friend to help prevent admission into the building.
- **Motion** by J. Mergiotti: **To adjourn the meeting.** E. Horvat second, motion **unanimously approved.**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva S. Lexie