

**YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
By conference telephone call on March 28, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

Attending by Telephone: Keith Anderson, Timothy Daniel, Charles Esser, Jared Farbman, Khalilah Lawson (joined at 9:15 a.m.), Melanie McCottry, James Multari, Tiffanie Talley-Baines, Roxanne Tillman, Robert Totaro, Sai Yerrapathruni.

Absent: Graham Brent, Martin Brigham, Erin Horvat, Kiley Smith Kelly, Scott Lillis, James Mergiotti, David Thomas.

Staff attending: Scott Emerick, Brian Leffler, Eva Lexie, Zuri Stone.

This special meeting was called to discuss and vote on two proposed expulsions. The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Board Vice Chair R. Totaro.

Two expulsion hearings were held on March 26, 2019 with Director of Student Life Zuri Stone, Program Director Brian Leffler, and Chuck Esser attending as the Board representative. Memoranda summarizing the hearings and related recommendations were provided to board members in advance of this meeting.

Student JDE

- C. Esser gave an overview of the reasons for the hearing. A partner organization was involved and they sent a representative to advocate for giving the student an additional chance. The student attended the hearing and did not contest the statement of facts.
- The recommendations from the hearing were:
 1. That JDE be expelled for Session 5. The specific dates are Tuesday, March 26, 2019 until Thursday, May 2, 2019.
 2. That JDE complete specified restorative assignments.
- There was a discussion of whether the severity of the penalty was appropriate. Z. Stone pointed out the potential impact the behavior could have had, given that it took place at a partner organization, and explained that the student had been thoroughly prepped about the importance of the visit and how to behave there. The student accepted responsibility but did not seem fully accountable.

Ten board members were present to vote on the following resolution:

- **Motion by R. Tillman: To approve the recommendations from the expulsion hearing and to expel student JDE for Session 5, from Tuesday, March 26, 2019 until Thursday, May 2, 2019. M. McCottry second, motion unanimously approved.**

Student KH

- K. Lawson joined the meeting at this time.

- B. Leffler reviewed the background that led up to the student's hearing. The student attended the hearing and did not contest the statement of facts.
- The situation involved a weapon (taser). The state mandates a one-year expulsion for bringing a weapon to school, but permits discretion to the Executive Director to allow the student to remain in the school.
- The student had no intention to harm anyone, and has been a positive force in the school. Letters of support for the student were submitted by five staff members and a fellow student.
- The student expressed remorse and a willingness to take a leadership role on safety issues in the future.
- The recommendations from the hearing were as follows:
 1. That KH be expelled for Session 5. The specific dates are Tuesday, March 26, 2019 until Thursday, May 2, 2019.
 2. That KH complete a restorative assignment that includes a verbal and/or written apology to staff and students.
 3. That KH join the school's safety team as a student representative.
- S. Emerick stated that he affirmed the recommendation to allow the student to return after session 5, which he as Executive Director has the discretion to allow.
- C. Esser suggested that students could benefit from training on alternatives to violence and that the school might want to look into this kind of training.
- There was a question about precedent in the event of a future situation involving a weapon. Would it be different if it was a firearm?
 - Staff members responded that the level of harm the weapon could cause is a factor, along with the student's good record, strong show of remorse, and lack of intent to harm.

Eleven board members were present to vote on the following resolution:

- **Motion by C. Esser: To approve the recommendations from the expulsion hearing, and to expel student KH for Session 5, from Tuesday, March 26, 2019 until Thursday, May 2, 2019. J. Multari second, motion unanimously approved.**

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva S. Lexie