

**LINK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Minutes of the Special Meeting  
May 24, 2021 6:30 PM  
Via Zoom**

**LINK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL MISSION**

Link Community Charter School will provide an outstanding middle school education for learners of all academic abilities by developing the mind, body and spirit through a strong curriculum, experiential learning, immersion in the arts, and an enduring commitment to Core Values; this will allow them to be successful in competitive high schools and become responsible and resourceful citizens who give back to others.

**CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting was called to order at 6:39 pm by vice- chair, Denise Smith.

**OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE: READING OF THE “SUNSHINE LAW” STATEMENT**

Adequate notice of this meeting of the LCCS Board of Trustees, setting forth time, date and location, was provided by placing a notice with the *New Jersey Star Ledger and nj.com, El Nuevo Coqui, Irvington Herald. East Orange Record, Orange Transcript, and Essex Daily News* on April 23, 2021; by email to the city clerks of the four districts of residence and the county superintendent of education on April 23, 2021; by posting notice on the school website; and by communicating same to the Board of Trustees.

**ROLL CALL**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Barkley, Kaitlin	√	
Covington, Regina	√	
Daughtry, Brenda		√
Ebanks, Shawna	√	
Holguin-Veras, Susana	√	
Marshall, Richard	√	
Petrillo, John		√
Purefoy, Frances	√	
Smith, Denise	√	

**IN ATTENDANCE: NON-VOTING STAFF/BOARD ATTORNEY**

Maria Pilar Paradiso, head of school  
Sharon Machrone, board recording secretary  
Bima Baje, school business administrator  
Leslie Baynes, chief operating officer  
Christine Martinez, Esq., board attorney

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Resolution #052521-01: Be it Resolved that the Board of Trustees accepts and approves the agenda for the meeting on May 24, 2021.**

Moved by Mrs. Purefoy

Seconded by Mrs. Covington

Vote: Voice; passed unanimously

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

During the course of the board meeting the Board of Trustees offers members of the public an opportunity to address issues regarding the operation of LCCS. The Board reminds those individuals to take this opportunity to identify themselves by name and address and to limit their comments to items listed on the agenda and/or items directly related to the operation of the LCCS. Issues raised by members of the public may or may not be responded to by the Board. All comments will be considered, and a response will be forthcoming if and when appropriate. The Board asks that members of the public be courteous and mindful of the rights of other individuals when speaking. Specifically, comments regarding students and employees of the Board are discouraged and will not be responded to by the Board. Students and employees have specific legal rights afforded by the laws of New Jersey. The Board bears no responsibility, nor will it be liable for any comments made by members of the public. Members of the public should consider their comments in light of the legal rights of those affected or identified in their comments and be aware that they are legally responsible and liable for their comments. Comments by each member of the public choosing to speak are limited to 3 minutes.

## **CLOSING OF PUBLIC COMMENT**

Seeing no members of the public, Mrs. Smith closed the public comment portion of this meeting.

## **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

## **HEAD OF SCHOOL**

See attached report.

### **Approval of hire**

**Resolution # 052421-02: Be it Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the hiring for the following individual:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>10/12 Month</b>	<b>F/T or P/T</b>	<b>2021-22 Salary</b>
Isabella Meliado	Kindergarten Teacher	10 month	F/T	\$50,000.00

Moved by Ms. Barkley

Seconded by Mrs. Covington

Discussion: None

Vote: Roll call; passed unanimously

### **Approval of calendar change**

**Resolution 052421-03: Be it Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves amending the 2020-2021 school calendar to close school for 12-month employees on Monday, June 21, 2021 in observation of Juneteenth, as recommended by the head of school.**

Moved by Mrs. Purefoy

Seconded by Mrs. Covington

Discussion: None

Vote: Roll call; passed unanimously

## **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

### **BOARD SELF EVALUATION AND 2021-2020 GOALS**

Mrs. Smith presented a summary of the board self-evaluation and trustees were asked to submit one suggested goal to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Machrone by June 7<sup>th</sup>. The Governance Committee will review them and make recommendations on 2021-2022 goals at the June board meeting.

Members were asked to complete the head of school evaluation which will be discussed in Executive Session at the June board meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next regular board meeting will be held on Monday, June 14, 2021.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Moved by Mrs. Covington

Seconded by Mr. Marshall

Vote: Voice; passed unanimously

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm.

These minutes represent a record of the actions taken by the Board of Trustees during the meetings and a summary of the discussions that took place. The minutes are not intended to be, nor are they, a verbatim record of the discussion on a particular item.

Respectfully submitted,



Sharon F. Machrone, Board Recording Secretary

Date: May 24, 2021

Approved by the Link Community Charter School Board of Trustees:



Updates, Special Board Meeting, May 24, 2021

**Link Enrollment:**

Grade Level	Approved Enrollment	20/21 Enrolled & Attending	Enrollment in process	20/21 Wait List Students Status
5	80	74	1	Initial Lottery Results: 85 Accepted/1 Declined 137 total NEW applications Current Status: 0
6	80	78 (1 left for boarding school; 2 <sup>nd</sup> student moved)	0	53 NEW
7	80	84	0	42 NEW applications
8	72	73	0	34 NEW applications
<b>Total</b>	<b>304</b> (80 K-5 span) (232 6-8 span)	<b>309</b> (74 K-5 span) (235 6-8 span)		

**Enrollment Applications Received for School Year 2021-22:**

Grade Level	Registered	Applications Received	Accepted thru Lottery	Placed on Waitlist	Entered for Next Lottery
Kindergarten	15	30	16		6
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	40	65	53		3
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade		18	10	5	3
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade		55	2	51	2
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade		74		74	

**Note:** We also have received applications from **3** children who do not meet the age requirement for Kindergarten.

**Staffing:**

The Hiring Advisory Committee and the Principal are working closely on recruitment and hiring. Interviews and demo lessons are all virtual. We are seeing some strong applicants. We will make another push on recruitment posts.

**ESSER II and III:**

- Additional federal allocations under ESSER II and III will provide meaningful support as follows:
  - ESSER II
    - \$499,233 for learning loss, SEL, building/PPE
    - \$32,038 for learning acceleration
    - \$45,000 for mental health/SEL)
  - Application, originally due in late May has been extended till June
- ESSER III funds being announced formally but in the range of \$1.2 million for Link
- For the ESSER II and III funds, the DOE is taking a different approach. In addition to the grant applications, we will solicit public feedback—in our case from parents and staff through a survey
- We are looking to partner with the Youth Development Clinic to provide counseling services under the mental health portion of ESSER II
- Link will also undergo a full curriculum review to include an examination around learning loss, as well as standard alignment
- We are also looking to partner with Catapult for a Friday afternoon program with ELA/math, SEL, and STEM programming

**Planning for 2021-22**

We are working on a plan for next year and await guidance from NJDOE in July