



Board Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM

Location:

Zoom Virtual Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93894143318?pwd=RnlTMTB2L0hHamN2MWJSekJTSEJSZz09>

Phone: +1 929 205 6099

Meeting ID: 938 9414 3318

Password: 107590

- I. Call to Order/Welcome (___Stephen Wilson___) at _6:32__ p.m.
- II. Board Member Attendance Roll Call

Name	Present	Absent
Stephen Wilson	X	
Becky Barnes	X	
Jonathan Pace	X	
Julie Johnson	X	
Demetria Pollard		X
Chad Davis	X	
Sara Jane Arnett	X	
Sally Thornton	X	
John Thompson	X	

Others in attendance:

Melissa Rabon – Executive Director, PACE Academy

Dr. Melanie Vaughn – Academic Director, PACE Academy

Michelle Crane – Disability Services Director, PACE Academy

Nikki Sawyer – Nurse

Mary Allison Caudell – Attorney for School

Several Parents in attendance



I. Read Previous Meeting Minutes. **Motion:** *Approve Previous Board Meeting Minutes:* 1st motion by ___ Beckye Barnes_____ to accept minutes as read by _ Stephen Wilson___ 2nd motion by _6:42 ___.

II. Public Comment Section (none present)

The official meeting of PACE Academy Board of Directors is, by law, a public meeting. The Board values community input. To protect the integrity of the meeting agenda, public dialogue will be restricted to the *Public Comment* section of the agenda or as directed by the Board Chairman. Policy is as follows:

- a. Each speaker has 3 minutes to speak
- b. Speakers may not address an individual board member directly
- c. Speakers may not ask questions of the Board
- d. Board members may not engage speakers in discussion
- e. Disruptive/abusive language or behavior is not permitted
- f. Deborah Greenhouse, MD: Pediatrician in Columbia, SC; no personal vested interest; has patients at PACE; official spokesperson for AAP; need to use all protective resources for children; layer protection; noted public schools are failing in protecting students; everyone who can be vaccinated needs to be; universal masking; distancing while indoors; improved ventilation; masks work and do not hurt children; masks works; recognizes the politization of the issue; speaking directly to the medical issues; hospitals are full; it is up to us to keep children safe. She is "ready to die on that hill."
- g. Pam: Mother of Henry Crawford; physician; echo Dr. Greenhouse's comments; we need as much protection as possible; emphasized the contagious nature of the disease; emphasized this is a public health issue. Encouraged us to implement a mask mandate
- h. Debbie Deutschmann: concerned that young son is being exposed because she has seen staff and students not wearing masks; Guidance from OSHA that workers should be wearing mask regardless of vaccination status. CDC recommends universal masking; noted that the SCOTUS has upheld vaccine mandates; SC SC has upheld masks in colleges; encouraged PACE to mandate masks to keep children safe.
- i. Jacob Porter: Parent of PACE student; adamant that masks should be a choice; cited the SC law; any attempt to mandate a mask for his child will result in his child potentially being removed from the school. Notes that the politization of masks
- j. Mark Crawford: cannot let his children be exposed to dangers can easily be mitigated. Suggests the layered approach; encourages use of masks. It is not a matter of "freedom," but rather public health. Encourages a mask mandate



- k. Rachael Taylor: wanted to articulate support for comments by doctors, reiterated the contagious nature of Delta variant of Covid. Encourages wearing masks; it is a matter of public safety. "We all need to do this for each other."
 - l. Jennifer Marshall: Riley (son) attends PACE and is vaccinated; continues to send him to school in a mask for the protection of classmates and staff. Requests that the Board giving serious consideration to following the science of masking which shows the efficacy of masks to stem the tide of Covid.
 - m. Melissa Rabon: ventilation was paramount in construction due to Covid pandemic; air scrubbers in place throughout the building (more have been ordered); children have handwashing times built into the day.
- III. Update: Enrollment/Start of Year (Melissa Rabon) – 188 students enrolled; 121 have IEPs; most others have 504 or outside evaluation.
- IV. Update on Current Medicine Policy from Nikki Sawyer
- V. *Executive Session* – Entered Executive Session at 7:15p motion by Chad Davis; seconded by Stephen Wilson

Executive sessions allow the Board of Directors to discuss sensitive matters while maintaining confidentiality when necessary. Items that may be discussed in Executive Session are as follows: Employment, Appointment, Compensation, Promotion, Demotion, Discipline or Release of an Employee, Contractual Agreements. While the Board Chairman may brief board members absent from Executive Session, no other board members may report or discuss Executive Session items with anyone not in attendance of the session as all items are deemed confidential. Closed executive session at __8:12p__. Motion to close executive session by __Johnathan Pace____; second by __Stephen Wilson_____.

Action Item: Mask Ordinance/Covid: The PACE Academy Board of Directors will not mandate mask at this time to comply with Proviso 1.108 as passed on July 6th by the General Assembly. The board further compels the Executive Director to seek additional PPE for Staff and Students, making it available upon request. Additionally, the school will make available an individual desk shield upon request of the parent and/or student. The board will continue to monitor the situation and will reconvene if needed. 1st motion to accept by __Stephen Wilson_____, 2nd motion by __Becky Barnes_____.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain from voting
Stephen Wilson	X		
Becky Barnes	X		

Jonathan Pace	X		
Julie Johnson	X		
Demetria Pollard			
Chad Davis	X		
Sara Jane Arnett	X		
Sally Thornton		X	
John Thompson	X		

Motion carries

Action Item: The Board of Director accepts the recommendations of the School Nurse and Executive Director to remove the requirement of the physician’s signature to authorize over the counter medicine. Parents will be allowed to bring new, unopened medicine with note authorizing the School Nurse to administer based on directions for on the label of the medication and in compliance with the SC LLR.

VI. **Motion:** *Accept recommendation.* 1st motion to accept by ___Stephen Wilson ____, 2nd motion by ___Sally Thornton_ ____.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain from voting
Stephen Wilson	X		
Becky Barnes	X		
Jonathan Pace	X		
Julie Johnson	X		
Demetria Pollard			
Chad Davis	X		
Sara Jane Arnett	X		
Sally Thornton	X		
John Thompson			X

Motion carries.



VII. Action Item: Appoint vice-chair of Board as Sara-Jane Arnett until next election. **Motion:** *Accept recommendation.* 1st motion to accept by ___Stephen Wilson____, 2nd motion by ___Sally Thornton ____.

Name	Yes	No	Abstain from voting
Stephen Wilson	X		
Becky Barnes	X		
Jonathan Pace	X		
Julie Johnson	X		
Demetria Pollard			
Chad Davis	X		
Sara Jane Arnett	X		
Sally Thornton	X		
John Thompson	X		

VIII. Next Meeting scheduled for September 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM, location TBD; we will call an emergency meeting as necessary

IX. Close Meeting **Motion:** *Adjourn Meeting* 1st motion to adjourn by _ Stephen Wilson____ at _8:17_ pm; 2nd motion by _Becky Barnes__ ____ at _8:17____pm.

Meeting Minutes taken by Sally Thornton, Board Secretary