

**YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting
By conference telephone call on October 23, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.**

MINUTES

Attending by Telephone: Keith Anderson, Martin Brigham, Timothy Daniel, Jared Farbman, Erin Horvat, James Mergiotti, James Multari, Tiffanie Talley-Baines, Robert Totaro, Sai Yerrapathruni.

Absent: Graham Brent, Charles Esser, Kiley Smith Kelly, Khalilah Lawson, Scott Lillis, Melanie McCottry, David Thomas, Roxanne Tillman.

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

This special meeting was called to discuss and vote on the expulsion of student QSW. An expulsion hearing was held on October 19, 2018 with Director of Student Life Ameen Akbar, and Roxanne Tillman 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 8:42 a.m.

- A. Akbar reviewed the background that led up to the hearing.
- The student attended the hearing and displayed excellent accountability and a desire to restore.
- The incident involved a physical altercation, but the other student involved has an IEP and the behavior was a manifestation of disability, so that student cannot be expelled.
- The initial recommendations from A. Akbar and R. Tillman were as follows:
 - That QSW be expelled for the specific dates from Monday, October 22, 2018 to Monday, November 5, 2018.
 - That QSW complete and present a proposed restorative assignment at an all school Village Meeting upon return.
 - That QSW enroll in the Leadership Skill Development class based on strong potential shown during the expulsion hearing.
- However, both R. Tillman and A. Akbar had reservations about whether this seemed too punitive given the student's excellent accountability, in addition to the fact that the other student will not receive the same consequence although the other student may have started the altercation.
- After considerable discussion, the board agreed to reduce the expulsion period from the originally recommended two weeks (which extends into Session 2) to one week (returning on the first day of Session 2).
- It was pointed out that it is important for staff to resolve the best way to message to students how we sometimes handle behavior by students with disabilities differently from other students. There needs to be equity but not necessarily equality.
 - S. Emerick stated there would be conversations with the Specialized Services Department and the Program Team about this difficult issue.

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

- **Motion** by E. Horvat: **To approve the recommendation to expel student QSW from Monday, October 22, 2018 through Monday, October 29, 2018.** S. Yerrapathruni second, motion **unanimously approved.**
- **Motion** by R. Totaro: **To adjourn the meeting.** M. Brigham second, motion **unanimously approved.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eva S. Lexie