



Youth Connection Charter School Board Meeting

10/31/2024 5:30 P.M. VIRTUAL

TYPE OF MEETING	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING CALLED BY	President Molina called the meeting to order at 5:31p.m.
OPENING REMARKS	Welcome
PUBLIC COMMENTS	None
ROLL CALL	<p>In attendance: Mr. Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President, Dr. Laura Ruth Johnson, Vice President, Mr. James Lyles, Treasurer, Angela Gibson, Secretary, Dr. Fabricio Balcazar, Senior Advisor, and Members, Mr. Arthur Ward, Dr. Richard Blackmon, Jr., Ms. Christine Bowden and Dr. Jermaine Morales.</p> <p>Absent: N/A</p> <p>A quorum was present.</p>
STAFF	<p>Sheila Venson, Executive Director, L. Vaughn, G. Carrera, A. Buabeng, T. Brown, K. Hopson, R. Williams, C. LaGroon, J. Whitenhill, G. Alejos, L. Smith-Rayfield, Y. Thomas, D. Whittmon, D. Santell-Cote and E. Morrow.</p> <p>Campuses/Others: NIU Junior Board: Andrea Vazquez, Natalie Mealing, and Jacob Woodson, Chair</p>
AGENDA	Opening Remarks, Public Comments, Roll Call, reading of 9.26.2024 Board Meeting Minutes, 10.31.2024 Executive/Finance Committee Report, Financial Reports Ending September 30, 2024, Board Actions/Resolutions and Adjournment.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 9.26.2024, Board Meeting Minutes:

Motioned by Member Lyles Seconded by Member Johnson

There was or X was no discussion of the item.

Vote: In Favor 9 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 9 Vote did not carry ____

1. CPS Update

a. CPS Operational Scorecard/YCCS Response-

Director Venson presented to the Executive/Finance Committee the scorecard deck introduced by Options in September 2024 for review and discussion. In summary, these changes to the operational scorecard were not at the CPS board level as agreed upon in YCCS' agreement that indicates policy is set by CPS board. YCCS legal is looking into rather or not these changes can be made arbitrarily without CPS board consent. Additionally, the discipline letter sent to Options was reviewed and discussed by the Executive /Finance Committee. In summary, YCCS will continue to submit the discipline as stated in our policy and will not accept the procedures and practices that are not mandated in the law as presented to our campuses. This issue has also been leveled up to YCCS legal for review. YCCS is further continuing to reiterate our communication strategy with vendors so that we operate as a united network.

b. Preliminary Performance –

Director Venson & Dr. Brown presented the preliminary performance and compliance data to the Executive/Finance Committee. Although, the Options network used pandemic data in 2021-22 with several campuses that did not meet. However, the overall three-year average has YCCS and all 17 campuses making performance.

The Options compliance metric has seven indicators that have a score of 100% to meet. YCCS has three indicators that they **did not** meet based upon this cut score, they are: Diverse Learners, EL/Bilingual and teacher certification (see attached board folder for further information and details.)

c. 2024 Official Summative Designation-Dr. Brown reviewed with the Executive/ Finance Illinois State Board Comprehensive and Intensive designations the indicators and metrics.

Campuses with a school improvement designation status include being assigned a School Improvement Specialist from ISBE partners Regional Office of Education West #40 includes required touchpoints (i.e. meetings, planning, CIWP support, and principal coaching). YCCS has advocated to ISBE that the metrics do not appropriately meet the demographic of the students in alternative schools.

2. Renewal Strategy Update

a. Town Hall Meetings Recap-The Executive/Finance Committee reviewed the videos snippets. Board members that spoke shared their takeaways from the town hall meetings. The meetings included politicians, staff, parents and students, which were very impactful. The authenticity made the town halls more meaningful to YCCS' community based and political

narrative. Testimony strategy will continue, and the petition drive will be our next steps. The strategy will continue through the time that our renewal decision is made by the CPS board.

b. Meeting with Mayor's Office – 11/25/24

Director Venson shared with the Executive/Finance Committee the summary of the meeting called by the alderperson Jessie Fuentes 26th ward that included Options, Representatives from the Mayor's office, ASN and YCCS leaders. The three demands discussed are: need-based funding, removing YCCS from Options and returning to I & I, and removing barriers to student enrollment (*transfer policy*). Additional scenarios/strategies were reviewed by the Executive/Finance Committee as the next steps.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 10.31.24 Executive/Finance Committee Report:

Motioned by Member **Bowden** Seconded by Member **Lyles**

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor **9** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried **9** Vote did not carry

Board Meeting

Dr. Laura Johnson introduced Jacob Woodson, a student from Northern Illinois University, who is assessing the board for a class project. The roll call confirmed a quorum, and minutes were approved. Key points included a clean audit for FY 2024, a \$1.2 million deficit, and an unfunded pension liability of \$2.5 million. The board discussed preliminary performance metrics, noting areas of non-compliance. Town hall meetings were successful, with 250-300 attendees each. The board voted unanimously on a letter to CPS, pending vendor input, and accepted the director's report.

Financial Report

Comptroller Buabeng presented Financial Reports Ending September 30, 2024, for review and discussion.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the Financial Reports Ending September 30, 2024:

Motioned by: Member **Ward** Seconded by: Member **Bowden**

There **X** was or ___ was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor **9** Opposed ___ Abstained ___

X Vote carried **9** Vote did not carry

Director's Report

Gersom Carrera provides the director's report, noting an attendance average of 70%, enrollment of 2525, and a lunch count of 54%. The report included updates on medical compliance, English language learner audits, and visits from CPS for renewal. Gersom mentioned the completion of town halls and the ongoing work with Voorhees University for teacher training and micro-credentials. Four incidents of student violence are reported, with one student fatally injured and others recovering.

Board Action

It was motioned to approve 10.31.2024 Director's Report:

Motioned by: Member Lyles Seconded by: Member Ward

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 9 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 9 Vote did not carry

Board Action

It was motioned to approve the 2023-2024 Audit:

Motioned by: Member Lyles Seconded by: Member Gibson

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 9 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 9 Vote did not carry

Board Action

It was motioned to approve moving forward with the YCCS Board Communication to CPS:

Motioned by: Member Molina Seconded by: Member Balcazar

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 9 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 9 Vote did not carry

Board Action

It was motioned to end the closed session and adjourn the meeting at 6:38 PM CST:

Motioned by: Member Ward Seconded by: Member Bowden

There was or X was no discussion of the items.

Vote: In Favor 9 Opposed ____ Abstained ____

X Vote carried 9 Vote did not carry

Board Minutes Adopted: December 5, 2024

DocuSigned by:

 Luis Alejandro Molina Alanis, President

Signed by:

 Angela Gibson, Secretary