

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN DOOR CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024 AT 5:35 PM IN THE MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

This meeting has been publicized in accordance with Section 5, Ch 231, PL 1975, and Open Public Meeting Law by notification of the Jersey Journal and Hudson Reporter within the legal time required. Time may be allotted for public comment at this meeting.

**II. FLAG SALUTE**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

**III. OUR MISSION**

The Golden Door Charter School was founded on the simple convictions that a first-rate education is the birthright of every individual, that all children can learn, and that every child should be challenged to reach his or her full potential. The overarching goals of the school are to:

- o Demonstrate the benefits of academic achievement that public school students can routinely attain when the advantages of charter school governance are coupled with ambitious new academic standards
- o Offer Jersey City families rich new choices in public education
- o Create new professional settings for teachers that permit them to succeed, free from debilitating work, financial constraints, and excess regulations.

**IV. ROLL CALL**

Board Members (voting):

Danielle Downs (President)	<u>Present</u>
Tonya Keyes (Vice President)	<u>Present</u>
Jessica Cappadona	<u>Present</u>
Paresh Patel	<u>Absent</u>
Tiehia Schonberger	<u>Present</u>

Note: Ms. Downs arrived late during the Presentation at 5:50pm.

Additional attendees (non-voting):

Tabitha Madera (Chief School Administrator)	<u>Present</u>
Paul Velelis (Business Administrator / Board Secretary)	<u>Present</u>

Note: Board members (voting) participated via Zoom teleconference while the non-voting attendees were on-site in order to allow for any interested public participation or comment.

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**V. MINUTES**

Motion by Ms. Cappadona and second by Ms. Schonberger to approve the following minutes by unanimous voice vote (3-0):

- Board Meeting minutes of **February 28, 2024**

**VI. CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER REPORT**

Chief Academic Officer, Ms. Tabitha Madera, reviewed the following items for the Board:

- CAO report provided and discussed at meeting.

**VII. PRESENTATION**

- Ms. Renero, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, provided an overview of her 5<sup>th</sup> grade class project on the importance of a school library and introduced the two students who would be speaking. Sharanya Vijay and Erin Dingding each read their letters to the Board with their respective arguments for a school library.
- Mr. Velelis, School Business Administrator, provided a budget presentation to the Board for the 2024-2025 school year.

**VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Board President invites members of the public to present comments to the Board. **Public participation** shall be governed by the following rules: **(1)** A participant must be recognized by the presiding officer and must preface comments by an announcement of his/her name, place of residence, and group affiliation; **(2)** Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes' duration; **(3)** No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard; **(4)** All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer; no participant may address or question Board members individually; **(5)** The presiding officer may: Interrupt, warn, or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, abusive or obscene.

- No comments made at this time.

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*The Chief Academic Officer recommends the following resolutions for approval.*

**IX. FINANCE**

Motion by Ms. Cappadona and second by Ms. Keyes to approve Items A through L. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **Operating Budget** for the 2024-2025 school year as per attached document.
- B. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **Preschool Enrollment & Planning Budget** for the 2024-2025 school year as per attached document.
- C. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **FSMC renewal** with *Maschio's Food Services, Inc.* for the 2024-2025 school year at the following costs:
  - a. *FSMC Management Fee: \$15,150*
  - b. *Guarantee info: Breakeven*
  - c. *Total Cost of Contract (i.e. Cost Reimbursable method): \$283,459.26*
- D. **WHEREAS** the School advertised for bids for the **New Boiler Installation** project to be received on **March 20, 2024**;

**WHEREAS** bids were received, opened, and read publicly for the above-referenced project. **Silva's Mechanical Service Inc.** from **Kearney, NJ** was the "low responsible bidder" in response to advertisement with a *base bid* submitted in the amount of **Two Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars and Zero Cents (\$237,800.00)**;

**WHEREAS** after further review of their bid provides that the **Silva's Mechanical Service Inc.** Bid Bond and Consent of Surety and all other essential documents were in receipt at the time of bid, effectively making them the "lowest responsible bidder";

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the School hereby approves the bid by **Silva's Mechanical Service Inc.** to be undertaken in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

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- E. **WHEREAS** the School advertised for bids for the **Partial Roof Recover** project to be received on **March 20, 2024**;

**WHEREAS** bids were received, opened, and read publicly for the above-referenced project. **Javier Construction Corp.** from **Clifton, NJ** was the “low responsible bidder” in response to advertisement with a *base bid* submitted in the amount of **Four Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$465,000.00)**;

**WHEREAS** after further review of their bid provides that the **Javier Construction Corp.** Bid Bond and Consent of Surety and all other essential documents were in receipt at the time of bid, effectively making them the “lowest responsible bidder”;

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the School hereby approves the bid by **Javier Construction Corp.** to be undertaken in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

- F. **WHEREAS** the School advertised for bids for the **Exterior Ramp and Stair Improvements** project to be received on **March 20, 2024**;

**WHEREAS** bids were received, opened, and read publicly for the above-referenced project. **Javier Construction Corp.** from **Clifton, NJ** was the “low responsible bidder” in response to advertisement with a *base bid* submitted in the amount of **Two Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$256,000.00)**;

**WHEREAS** after further review of their bid provides that the **Javier Construction Corp.** Bid Bond and Consent of Surety and all other essential documents were in receipt at the time of bid, effectively making them the “lowest responsible bidder”;

**NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED** that the School hereby approves the bid by **Javier Construction Corp.** to be undertaken in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:18A-1 et seq.

- G. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **Payroll Report for February 15, 2024** in the amount of \$222,158.35.
- H. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **Payroll Report for February 29, 2024** in the amount of \$211,694.28.
- I. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **Bills List for March 2024** in the amount of \$214,720.14.
- J. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **List of Transfers** for February 2024 where applicable.

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- K. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Board of Trustees’s Monthly Certification of Financial Status: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11 (a) 4, the members of Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees certify that as of **February 29, 2024** after review of the secretary’s monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the fiscal school year.
  
- L. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the Board Secretary’s Report and Treasurer’s Report: The Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the Report of the Secretary and Treasurer’s Report which said reports are in agreement for the month ending **February 29, 2024**.

**X. PERSONNEL**

Motion by Ms. Cappadona and second by Ms. Downs to approve Items A through H. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following **teacher hire(s)** for the 2023-2024 school year (Note: Salaries will be *prorated* accordingly for anyone who do not start on the first day of school).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Account #</b>
<b>Karen Weinberger</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	03-19-24	Step 1 BA	\$51,639	11-120-100-101-000-043
<i>*Note: Includes \$5,000 sign on bonus</i>					

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- B. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following **teacher hire(s)** for the **2024-2025 school year** (Note: Salaries will be *prorated* accordingly for anyone who do not start on the first day of school).

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>Step</b>	<b>Salary</b>	<b>Account #</b>
<b>Dana Berk</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher	09-01-24	Step 11 MA	\$67,799	11-120-100-101-000-043
<i>*Note: Includes \$5,000 sign on bonus</i>					
<b>Jake Hamstra</b>	Theater Teacher	09-01-24	Step 1 BA	\$54,993	11-190-100-101-000-043
<i>*Note: Includes \$5,000 sign on bonus</i>					

- C. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **FMLA paternity leave for Patrick Bober** from on or about 05-27-24 to on or about 06-14-24.
- D. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **FMLA medical leave for Lisa Lupi** from on or about 05-20-24 to on or about 06-30-24.
- E. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **FMLA maternity leave for Felizze-Anne Narciso** from on or about 09-01-24 to on or about 12-31-24.
- F. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the following **substitutes** as needed at a daily rate of \$150 a day.
1. Shruti Baiswar
- G. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **long-term substitute daily rate increase from a daily rate of \$150 to a daily rate of \$200** for the additional responsibility given for lesson planning duties effective on 04-08-24.
1. Kiesha Bolton
- H. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **transfer of the Stipend appointment** in accordance with terms of the collective bargaining agreement for the 2023-2024 school year as follows:

<b>Stipend</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Intramurals #1 – Basketball	Robert Giannotti (Jan-Feb)	Alex Rovatsos (Mar-June)	pro-rated amount of \$2,500 <i>(15 hours remaining = \$1,500)</i>
Intramurals #2 – Volleyball	Robert Giannotti	Alex Rovatsos (Mar-June)	\$2,500

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**XI. CURRICULUM**

➤ None

**XII. GOVERNANCE**

Motion by Ms. Keyes and second by Ms. Schonberger to approve Items A through C. Carried by unanimous voice vote (4-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the *revised School Calendar for the 2023-2024 school year* as per attached document (Note: Changes to account for half day on 4/8/24 due to solar eclipse, moving last day of school to 6/25 and changing last three days of school on 6/21, 6/24 & 6/25 to half days).
- B. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **settlement agreement with RG** as per attached document.
- C. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approves the **second (and final) reading** for the following policies:
  - 1. P#7424 - Bed Bugs
  - 2. P#1140 - Affirmative Action Program
  - 3. P#1523 - Comprehensive Equity Plan
  - 4. P#1530 & R#1530 - Equal Employment Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunity Complaint
  - 5. P#1550 - Equal Employment/Anti-Discrimination Practices
  - 6. R#2200 - Curriculum Content
  - 7. P#2260 & R#2260 - Equity in School and Classroom Practices
  - 8. P#2411 - Guidance Counseling
  - 9. P#2423 & R#2423 - Bilingual Education
  - 10. P#2431.4 & R#2431.4 - Prevention and Treatment of Sports-Related Concussions and Head Injuries (M)
  - 11. P#3211 - Code of Ethics
  - 12. R#5440 - Honoring Student Achievement
  - 13. P#5570 - Sportsmanship
  - 14. P#5750 - Equitable Educational Opportunity (M)
  - 15. P#5841 - Secret Societies
  - 16. P#5842 - Equal Access of Student Organizations
  - 17. P#7610 & R#7610 - Vandalism
  - 18. P#9323 - Notification of Juvenile Offender Case Disposition

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**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Ms. Downs and second by Ms. Keyes to adjourn at 6:45 PM.  
Carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Velelis", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Velelis  
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary