

Our board operates on a consensus basis in all matters, employing the group process methodology of Formal Consensus. We do so because we believe that equality of contribution to decisions greatly increases our ability to find the best and most creative outcomes aligned with our mission, vision and values. We also believe it imperative to engage the most committed form of democracy possible to model our core value of Mutual Respect for our students and community.

In our deliberations, we recognize and remember that all participants in the process always share responsibility for the quality of our experience. Participants place ultimate reliance on the founding ideas of our school—its vision, mission, and values- rather than any personal agenda. The group’s highest intention is to guide the school toward the most profound and creative realizations of those ideas.

Mission

The Seven Generations Charter School is an academically rich educational community creating generations of stewards who embrace our world and each other. All members of the Seven Generations Charter School community are committed to a public education alternative that promotes sustainability and citizenship with an interdisciplinary, individualized, project based curriculum.

Vision

To each Seven Generations student, we pledge:

- An experiential, constructivist approach to education that encourages hands-on learning in the community as well as in the classroom
- A culturally rich atmosphere that celebrates the expansive world around us
- An environment of academic excellence that taps into the creativity and uniqueness of each child and that fosters mutual respect
- An integrated learning experience that emphasizes sustainable living practices.

Core Values

Creativity; Hands-on; Academic Excellence; Cultural Richness; Integrated; Sustainable; Mutual Respect

	Purpose of agenda item	Agenda item	Presenter	Min.	Time
1	Assign roles	Process: Facilitator, timekeeper, note taker		5	6:30 PM
2		Open Door - any staff member can come to speak to the board about concerns	Anyone	10	6:35 PM
3		Executive Session – litigation			

Business Meeting Agenda
210 min. 7:00 – 10:30
4/12/2016



	Purpose of agenda item	Agenda item	Presenter	Min.	Time
1	Assign roles	<p>Introduction to Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda review (facilitator can allow time for silent reading, then request any changes, then call for consensus on the agenda) • Reading of Mission and Vision –or, if time is short, just the Core Value • Reading – Student writing shared by Jen Hersh • Formal Consensus Reading/Review (5 min) Meeting tools discussed • Check in – give everyone in the room a chance to speak if possible • Call to order/Roll call: Brian Anthony, Lori Friebolin, Courtney Kennedy, Ben Loomis, Stephen Peters, Al Russell, Christopher Sten • Approval of Minutes from previous month (March 8th & 24th, 2016) Approved by Consensus • May Board of Trustees meeting is being rescheduled from May 17th to May 10th 	Facilitator & others	20	7:00 PM
2	Discussion	<p>Public Comment (<i>Facilitator: first give time to any issue on the agenda, then open to comments not specifically about agenda</i>)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Question about whether the school would continue the “growth plan” which calls for an additional 4th grade class next year?</u> The enrollment committee is looking at this issue along with others, and will share some ideas at an upcoming community meeting. Community members expressed concern about enrolling new students to fill this classroom. When asked about how large a class size would be tolerated to preclude new enrollments, a community member answered 24-26, lower was better of course. 2. <u>Will any new 5th grade student be accepted?</u> The enrollment committee will look at data. The board has suspended new enrollments in 8th grade in prior years, and would certainly consider it. 3. <u>Is the committee list on the BOT agenda up to date?</u> The standing committees are listed on the agenda. Student Sunshine has evolved to Student Government. EIC Committee meets as needed. Social Emotional have evolved to School Wide Positive Behavior. Development Committee is starting up. All other committees are functioning. 4. <u>A parent expressed concerns about compliance of school assessment (charter page 31), education program (charter page 5 and 20), and instructional strategies. They requested Board members to attend the next Community Circle Meeting.</u> BOT recommended that the parent clarify the specific concerns and bring them to either the 		15	7:20 PM

		community circle or to bring a proposal to the Board at the next meeting.			
3	Presentation	The Emmaus Borough Council approved an amendment to the ordinance (Chapter 15, 404a) governing the bus zone parking area on Minor Street. The bus loading zone has been extended 120 feet east of the existing loading zone.	Andy Rowan	5	7:35 PM
4	Acknowledgement	The Board of Trustees acknowledges the following resignation(s) and/or termination(s): Kayla Anderson, Fifth Grade Long-term Substitute	Andy Rowan	5	7:40 PM
5	Proposal	The Board of Trustees approves the following hire(s): Carolane Gehret, Reading Specialist, pro-rated salary of \$38,500	Andy Rowan	5	7:45 PM
6	Presentation	2016 - 2017 Calendar Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much feedback was received from staff and community and taken into consideration when developing the calendar. • PSSA dates are determined by PDE • There are 3 snow days built in the calendar, after 3 snow days make up days will take place as indicated on calendar. If snow make up days need to be used they will be announce a minimum of 1 week in advance. • Request to have the calendar readable when laser printed, not in color. • In the future can we look at having a full week for students while providing teachers the time to collaboratively plan and develop EIC units? • Proposal to Approve presented 2016 – 2017 school year calendar – Approved by Consensus 	Admin Team	20	7:50 PM
7	Presentation	EIC Director's Report	Jen Hersh	20	8:10 PM
8	Discussion	Strategic Enrollment – Open discussion for factors to consider for future enrollment plans <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enrollment number should be approximately 380 minimum for financial concerns • Enrollment numbers also have a maximum due to facilities. • Concern that students who enroll later in their career lack the knowledge of project based learning, sustainability and RC2. Some questions currently being studied: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking at the 3rd grade moving to 4th grade if numbers do not warrant a 3rd classroom, would we keep at 2 classrooms and suspend new enrollments? 2. How will community be informed about this discussion? Can a special meeting be set or an email be set up for comments on this topic. Send out an email with background information. 3. Should enrollment be closed at a certain grade? At what grade do we close open enrollment? 4. Can a date be set to notify the community of the Enrollment Plan for 2016- 2017 school year? Need to have answer from East Penn about suspension of MS program. 		25	8:30 PM

		<p>5. How can we continue to keep the small school feel while still being financially stable?-</p> <p>6. How can we work on student retention/family engagement? If a community member has ideas, they can be emailed to the Board or enrollment@sevengen.org</p>			
9	Presentation	<p>Principal's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Admin team met today with EPSD Superintendent to share the findings about the MS and our proposal to amend the charter to suspend enrollment on grades 6, 7, 8. The EPSD Superintendent will share these findings with the EPSD board which may lead to a recommendation to the Board by the Superintendent or the EPSD Board will need to vote on this. • Communication has been sent home to families in grades 5-7 about the transitions for next school year. This information will also be shared via constant contact. 	Paul Hunter	20	8:55 PM
10	Presentation	<p><u>Board Committee</u></p> <p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill list (Proposal to approve, 5 min) Approved by Consensus • Financial reports (5 min report) • Preliminary Budget (10 min) <p>Governance and Policy</p>	Lee Merendino Chris Sten	10	9:15 PM
11	Presentation	<p><u>School Committees</u></p> <p>Development Food and Wellness Library Property and Facilities - Courtney Kennedy Seven Gen Lends Technology</p>	N/A	0	9:25 PM
12	Presentation	<p><u>Staff-led Committees</u></p> <p>Social Emotional & Academic Culture Committee EIC Sunshine Committee (Staff) Sunshine Committee (Student)</p>	N/A	0	9:25 PM
13	Presentation	<p><u>Community Committee</u></p> <p>Community Circle</p> <p>Events – Hike A thon – May 6th Staff Appreciation events are being planned Concerns – Safety concerns both on campus and on buses. Admin team has been in communication with the bus company about concerns. Bus drivers are encouraged to make behavior referral. Students with behavioral concerns on the bus have been suspended from the bus. If a parent has a concern about bus safety they should contact the bus driver and school administrator. Transportation issues should be directed to the bus company and school administrator. IEP concerns – this should be directly addressed with the Special Education Teacher and Administrator.</p>	Gwyn Jones	10	9:25 PM

14	Proposal	The board approves the reelection of Lori Friebolin for another 3 year as a Board of Trustee member. – Approved by Consensus			
14	Discussion	Time allotted for last-minute additions and/or extensions		40	9:35 PM
15	Discussion	Public Comments (on any item relating to the school) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a family does not have a transition plan by June 10th can the parent have a copy of the student's records? Yes, a copy will be supplied to the family. • Can we ensure that the MS staff and students are not "checked out" and still being productive members of the Seven Gen community? Staff meetings are being held, along with evaluations. Students will continue to be monitored and support will be provided as necessary. • Graduation – Administration will be looking at a way to honor all grades. Dates and events will be planned shortly. • Will there be a Positive Behavior Specialist and Special Education Director for the 2016-2017 school year? Currently these roles are not in the budget. This may be revised with budget revisions. 	Anyone	10	10:15 PM
16	All present have opportunity to	Evaluation of meeting General questions to keep in mind; but any evaluative comment is	Anyone	5	10:25 PM
17	Adjourn	Thank you for your time and participation in the Seven Gen. community!			10:30 PM