



MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
May 20, 2014

The meeting was held at: 198 Varet Street, Brooklyn, NY 11206

PRESENT

Lourdes Putz, Chair
Samuel Rivera, Vice Chair
Marcenia Johnson, Trustee
James Lema, Trustee
Seth Failla, Faculty Representative

GUESTS

Ellen Eagen, School Attorney
Darnell Pierre, Staff
Rickey Brown, Staff
Patrick S. Kern, Staff
Denise Lora, Staff

Paul Leleck, Building Hope
Kathleen Gaffney, Principal
Princess Barimah, Staff
Andre Sanford, Staff
Belle Madera, Staff

EXCUSED

Iyndia Bey, Co-Treasurer
Robert Shea, Trustee

Alma Iannotto, Parent Representative
Akil Bello, Co-Treasurer

Meeting was called to order at 7:30pm.

1. WELCOME

2. APPROVAL OF APRIL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

This item needs to be postponed since there was no quorum. The Board will post the Minutes on the website per the DOE, pending final approval.

3. ACADEMIC REPORT

Principal reported on successful visit with Regent Cashin, career fair and senior activities. School is working on academics regarding senior program including Arts, Latin and Business Technology. There may be projected difficulties regarding math Regents data; math department is strategizing.

We have regents review; students have contracts signed and ownership with regents. School will be graduating students with Regents with Honors and Advanced Regents.

Graduation is Friday June 27 at 6 at Hunter College.

4. FINANCE UPDATE

Finance closed April books in 20 days. Discussion relating to cash on hand and erosion by the increase in rent. Chair asked for rent payment escalation; finance will produce.

5. CHARTER RENEWAL STATUS

Ms. Eagen reported that the New York State Board of Regents is voting on the New York City Department of Education's recommendation of a 5 year charter renewal during June meeting (May 20-21).

6. FUNDRAISING & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Mr. Kern discussed process of applying for grant monies from the Walentas Family Foundation; he held meeting with department heads who expressed that school needs a computer/multimedia room for class, free time, video and sound production, multimedia publications, and printing. However, Board discussion addressed issue that grant monies would not cover cost of a computer lab. Mr. Kern committed to locate another grant for STEM ideas and to use Walentas grant opportunity to apply for monies for a new dance floor as current dancing surface is not ergonomically sound. Mr. Kern and Ms. Eagen will prepare grant for submission for June 13.

Mr. Kern reported that the School has Title I monies remaining – approximately \$42,000 per session payments for regents prep, extended learning time and tutoring. Mr. Kern asked for Board approval to use money to create a summer bridge program for incoming ninth grade; Board approved Princeton Review, delegating review of contract to school counsel. In addition school counsel and Mr. Kern will review any necessary title amendments to use title monies for summer bridge program.

7. STUDENT RECRUITMENT & ENROLLMENT

Ms. Pierre reported that the School has 169 students currently enrolled in next years' incoming ninth grade class, and has 135 students on the waitlist for the ninth grade. Student Recruitment department has done an audit and determined that over last five years, every year School loses 23 students a year prior to the first day of school and therefore we need to account for this attrition in number of acceptances. D. Pierre will create a spreadsheet with updated status of registered/enrolled to send on a weekly basis to Board.

8. LEGAL & ACCOUNTABILITY

Ms. Eagen discussed use and issuance of RFP for safety audit. Mr. Kern will conduct walk through of building. RFP will be due June 2 and Ms. Eagen asks Board to review bids upon receipt so that decision can be made by June 9 and audit can get underway during week of June 9.

Ms. Eagen discussed issues relating to SPED discipline and discipline approach. She will be conducting an audit in conjunction with special education department for purposes of making sure we are in compliance.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING

June 16, 2014

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Exit public meeting for purposes of discussion relating to personnel matters; exist executive session and enter public meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT