



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**June 17, 2014**

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

**PRESENT**

Lourdes Putz, Chair  
Samuel Rivera, Vice Chair  
Akil Bello, Co- Treasurer  
Alma Iannotto, Parent Liaison  
Seth Failla, Teacher Liaison

**GUESTS**

Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber  
Ellen Eagen, School Attorney  
Patrick Kern, Staff  
Kathy Fernandez, Staff  
Denise Lora, Staff  
Kathleen Gaffney, Principal  
Princess Barimah, Staff  
Darnell Pierre, Staff  
Ricky Brown, Staff  
Paul Leleck, Building Hope

**EXCUSED**

Jose Gonzalez-Colon, Trustee  
Robert Shea, Trustee  
Iyndia Bey, Co-Treasurer  
Marcenia Johnson, Trustee  
James Lema, Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 7:23pm.

**1. WELCOME**

Ms. Putz welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting.

**2. APPROVAL OF APRIL AND MAY BOARD 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.

Mr. Rivera made changes to the May, 2014 Minutes:

- Page 1, capitalize the department names.
- Page 2, #5, change May 20, 21 to May 20-21. #6, change “school counsel” to “school attorney.”  
Also, change the phrase “we are” to “the school.”

**3. ACADEMIC REPORT**

Ms. Gaffney reported to the Board on graduation and said that the awards dinner was a success. She thanked everyone involved with putting it together. The Global Regents are tomorrow and 475 students are scheduled to take it. The parent liaison held a special program for Father’s Day and the school is offering a summer bridge program. The Board discussed college acceptances and the percentage of students enrolled in CUNY. The school will be tracking students after graduation for college purposes.

The Board discussed the school calendar and the amount of snow days, holidays, professional development days, and school events. Mr. Bello said that the Board saw no objection to keeping the calendar as it stands and recommended that the Board approve it by a quorum.

**4. SAFETY AUDIT**

There were three competitive bids which the Board reviewed by email and chose NJB Security Services Inc. for the safety audit. This company consists of former detectives and school safety. NJB will come in tomorrow to meet with the Principal and Dean of Student Life, then make referrals. Ms. Putz said she also

reached out to New York Peace to speak about their Restorative Justice project. This is a program that the whole school can get training in that focuses on alternative solutions to suspensions and conflict resolution.

## **5. GUIDANCE COUNSELORS' CONTRACT**

Mr. Brown spoke about amending the current contract to be a 10 month calendar, with 5 days mandatory in the summer for greeting incoming freshmen. Mr. Brown mentioned that counselors will have programming done prior to June 30. Ms. Eagen thanked them and said that Ms. Barimah is reviewing the salary pay scale and the goal is to have it all done by this week.

## **6. ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

Ms. Pierre presented the projected enrollment numbers for the fall. She explained the total number of students being discharged, promoted, and held back.

## **7. FINANCE UPDATE**

Ms. Fernandez spoke about the interim audit and said that there were no significant findings. The School Attorney stated that the school is processing and updating its fiscal policy.

Mr. Leleck reported on the budget for next year and reviewed the numbers for non-cash expenses, cash available from operations, cash obligations, and finally net cash from OPS. He projects that the school will have over \$1 million generated in 2015.

Mr. Leleck spoke about the Schools outstanding violations with the fire department's and assured the Board that the facilities team was addressing all outstanding items. Ms. Fernandez discussed the School's decision to move its payroll services from its current provider "Paychex" to an alternative provider "ADP." Both companies presented bids to the School and the finance department has decided to use ADP in the future. Ms. Fernandez also said that Chase Bank issued a notice representing that they will no longer be able to handle the School's finances, which will require the School to find a new bank. Ms. Fernandez suggested using Bank of America, and requested the presence of several Board members in order to facilitate the transfer as well as assign new signatories on the Schools bank accounts. The Board decided to hold an emergency meeting on July 3<sup>rd</sup> for the purpose of transferring the School's accounts.

## **8. DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Mr. Kern reported that the grant was submitted on behalf of the School to the Walentas Family Foundation, which will be used to revise the School's dance studio. The proposal requests funds to install dance flooring, ballet bars, mirrors, and a sound system, as well as provide funding for collaborative projects with three, Brooklyn-based dance organizations. Mr. Kern also reported on the Princeton Review Summer Bridge Program, which will parallel summer school. The Bridge Program will provide math instruction to 75 members of the incoming freshman class. Mr. Kern mentioned that a press release was sent out about our charter renewal to several major media outlets. Ms. Gaffney took the opportunity to mention that The Daily News came in to do a full page article on our "Home Town Hero" regarding the efforts of Ms. Dena Levin, the Schools Speech Specialist. Mr. Kern informed the Board that the St. Nick's Alliance, a local community organization is interested using the School to conduct their monthly meetings.

Mr. Leleck reported to the Board on a call we received from an investment banking group who approached Mr. Grossman, the Schools landlord, regarding the purchase of 198 Varet street by WCHS. The investment group believe that the School can borrow enough money (\$43 million) to make the purchase from Mr. Grossman. The Board discussed how the rent will escalate on a yearly basis and that this would be a sound investment. Ms. Eagen weighed the pros and cons with the Board. Mr. Bello said that it seems like it makes sense to go ahead but asked that the Board be kept informed.

**9. NEXT BOARD MEETING**

July 22, 2014