

MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
April 29, 2015

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

PRESENT

Lourdes Putz, Chair
Samuel Rivera, Vice Chair
Gabriel Perez, Teacher Liaison
Charles Hobson, Trustee
Marcenia Johnson, Trustee
Akil Bello, Treasurer

GUESTS

Kathleen Gaffney, Principal
Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber
Ellen Eagen, School Attorney
Kathy Fernandez, Staff
Donny Brusca, Staff
Kaylan Korr, Staff

Darnell Pierre, Staff
Patrick S. Kern, Staff
Princess Barimah, Staff
Paul Leleck, Building Hope
Kentia Coreus, Staff

EXCUSED

Robert Shea, Trustee
James Lema, Trustee

The meeting was called to order at 4:36pm.

1. WELCOME

Ms. Putz opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Performance by Advanced Choir

- Students from the Advanced Choir performed a Brazilian folk song in Portuguese that told a story about parades.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 24, 2015 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Rivera made a motion to accept the March Minutes. Mr. Hobson seconded. One abstention. All the rest were in favor.

3. PRESENTATION BY BASKETBALL PLAYERS

Ms. Putz asked to amend the Agenda to move this item up to number 3.

- Students Devon Owens and Swinton Lee presented to the Board. Both students are from the class of 2017 and are members of the basketball team. They addressed the issue of a gymnasium in the building. Right now, the team shares a gym with a middle school.
- Ms. Johnson thanked the students for their presentation and said that the Board discussed this at the last meeting.

4. BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Joseph Cardarelli

- The Board reviewed Mr. Cardarelli's application. Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the application and submit to the DOE. Ms. Putz seconded. All were in favor.

Other Members

- The Board is actively seeking new members and Mr. Hobson is in touch with friends in the art community who have expressed an interest.

Board Retreat

- Ms. Eagen proposed the idea of a retreat day on Thursday, June 25, which is the date of graduation. The Board would meet early and then travel as a group to Hunter College to attend graduation.

5. ACADEMIC REPORT

Principal's Report

Ms. Gaffney reported to the Board on several issues:

- Parent and Student Surveys: 42% of parents and 89% of students completed the surveys. Ms. Gaffney reached out vigorously to parents and students about completing the surveys.
- School culture, safety transitions, and uniforms: this is an ongoing effort. (Uniform, cellphone and lateness blitzes are used to enforce the policies on these matters).
- Ninth period scheduling committee: Donny Brusca put together a task force that will come up with a proposal to bring to the Board for a vote.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences.
- Senior/Graduation Activities: The senior trip included a stop in Baltimore. The day they were to arrive, the rioting broke out. Staff attending the trip wisely re-routed the itinerary and parents were grateful.
- Lottery/Registration: It was very successful with 858 applications. WCHS accepted 300 students for next year's Freshman class. All transfer applicants were waitlisted until space becomes available.
- Annual Comprehensive Review: Mr. Kern has been organizing data and collaborating with staff to create a "living" document to be submitted to the DOE on May 1st.
- Academic Summary: Overall passing rate is 75.6% with students doing very well in the arts and language programs. Teachers were asked to reflect on their concerns around assessment and academic intervention. Next year the feeling and vision will be "all students can learn."

Presentation by AP of Instruction: Mid-year Teacher Evaluation Data and Next Steps

- Kentia Coreus reviewed her Power Point presentation on teacher effectiveness and how that affects student learning. There will be ongoing in-house and external professional development with student engagement the focus.

Presentation by Business Department

- Kaylan Korr presented a Power Point on the importance of technology in education and how it would provide opportunity for students to receive Regents' diplomas and become college and career ready. She proposed an expansion of the WCHS CTE program and explored the sequence of courses for 2015-16. This would require an additional CTE teacher and partnerships with outside organizations that provide internships.
- Ms. Eagen reminded the Board that we discussed amending the Charter and asked for a vote of approval on the CTE program. Mr. Bello made a motion to approve it and Ms. Johnson seconded. All were in favor.

5. FACILITY/SECURITY

Raymond James Report on Maintaining Building:

- Cleaning of windows, classrooms and halls. Removing gum, repairs to elevator #1, prepare HVAC heating and A/C system. Repairs to handrails and regular cleaning assignments.
- An architect looked at installing a gymnasium and found that relocating the weight room, locker room and nurse's room would allow it to work.
- 103 new cameras are up and running 24/7 with a month of storage. Mr. Witherspoon worked with a hardware provider and Mr. Morales came in to do an audit on upkeep of system in the future. Ms. Gaffney publicly thanked the Board for upgrading the system.

Security:

Cell phone monitoring, 9th period lock down and new summer uniforms.

6. STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

Ms. Pierre sent her report to the Board before the meeting. She said we are now registering accepted students who will also be incited to participate in the "Shadow Program" during May. Ms. Gaffney thanked the team for doing a fabulous job on registration.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES

Roll-over Time

Ellen Eagen clarified roll-over time and said that the vacation, care time, and roll-over is just for staff and not teachers. The roll-over period is that for this year you can roll over to next year from July 1 to July 31. August 1 starts the new care time bank.

Timing of New Contracts

Ms. Barimah said that we are issuing intent letters to teachers from May 1 to May 8. Then, we will give out the contracts. This is because we are still finalizing budget issues and this is a common practice to let teachers have the opportunity to know what's happening next year.

8. ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE/DEVELOPMENT

Status of May 1, 2015 Filing of Annual Comprehensive Review

Mr. Kern reported that the deadline for filing is Friday. He will have Ms. Eagen review it first. Ms. Eagen said that it was refreshing that this report is now focused on the great things happening in WCHS with the data to back it up. Mr. Kern thanked everyone for their input and efforts.

Dance studio

The Dance Studio is fully functional and he would like Mr. Lema to come in to see it and thank him.

Valentas Family Foundation RFP

Mr. Kern will poll the administration, Board, School Leadership Team and staff to see where grant funds would best serve the community.

City Council Member Antonio Reynoso visited the school. The Board discussed speaking to him more about fundraising and stop signs.

Parent Promotional Video Update

The parents shared their experience at the school for the promotional video and were extremely moving. They spoke about the impact that the school had on their families. The next installment on the promotional video series will include alumni.

Academic school calendar

Ms. Gaffney reviewed the instructional academic calendar for 2015-16 with the Board. After discussion, it was decided that the start date for teachers will be August 24 with professional development that week. Students return on August 31 with a Wednesday schedule that week. Since this is a later start date, the four religious holidays in September will now be full school days. Good Friday on March 25 will be a Wednesday Schedule. It will be written in the personnel handbook that faculty may take off for religious observance without penalty. The Board will review the non-instructional staff calendar separately in regard to the budget and come to a determination. Ms. Eagen reminded the Board that teachers have the summer off and their calendar is different. Ms. Putz asked for a motion to approve the academic instructional school calendar with the changes in August, September and March. Mr. Bello was 1st and Mr. Hobson 2nd. One Abstention. All the rest were in favor.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING

May 19, 2015 at 7:00pm.

10. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session

11. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rivera made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Johnson seconded. All were in favor.