



**MINUTES**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**January 18, 2018**

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

**PRESENT**

Lourdes Putz, Chair  
Samuel Rivera, Vice Chair  
Charles Hobson, Trustee  
John Witherspoon, Trustee

**GUESTS**

Tanishia Williams, Principal  
Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber  
David Frank, Ex. Dir. NYSED Charter  
Ryan Fuller, Staff  
Donny Brusca, Staff  
Jeremy Kronenberg, Staff  
Seth Failla, Staff  
Carly Baumgarten, Staff  
Kelly Thomas, Staff  
John Ballantyne, Staff  
David Medina, Staff  
Bryn WorriLOW, Staff  
James Stovell, Little Bird

Ellen Eagen, Attorney  
Kate Manion, Staff  
Raymond James, Staff  
Valerie Jacobson, Staff  
Matthew Carezza, Staff  
Darnell Pierre, Staff  
Joseph DeMarco, Staff  
Kathy Fernandez, Staff  
Lester Samson, Staff  
Kevin Morris, Staff  
Karl Richards, Staff  
Paul Leleck, Building Hope  
Ann Leghorn, Staff  
Tiffany McKelvy, Staff

**EXCUSED**

Manuel Morales, Trustee; Evans Barreau, Parent Rep; David Fier, Teacher Rep.

**1. WELCOME**

Ms. Putz called the meeting to order at 5:11pm and welcomed everyone. Ms. Putz introduced Mr. Frank, the Executive Director of the New York State Charter Office. Mr. Frank thanked the Board for re-arranging their schedules and said it was a pleasure to see so much passion and energy in the building. He looks forward to working with the School. Choir and theater students performed.

**2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES**

- Mr. Rivera made a Motion to approve the December 19, 2017 Board Minutes. Mr. Hobson seconded. Mr. Witherspoon abstained. All were in favor.

**3. BURNING FLAME AWARD**

Ms. Williams explained the premise of the Burning Flame Award for new guests. She stated that it is given out monthly to exceptional WCHS employees. This month, for the first time, the entire staff was included in the nomination process. Ms. Williams awarded Ms. Carly Baumgarten from the SNAS Department with the Burning Flame for the month of February. Ms. Baumgarten was selected for her fierce dedication to students. Ms. Baumgarten accepted the award and read an excerpt from her WCHS cover letter which detailed how important special education teaching is to her.

**4. ACADEMIC REPORT**

**a. Intervention Programming**

Ms. Williams reviewed the NYSED Report Card.

- Graduation rates have increased and are trending up.

- ELA, Global, US and Science are trending up in Total Cohort Proficiency, although Math slightly decreased..
- ELA “Made Adequate Yearly Progress” but Math did not. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a measurement defined by the United States federal No Child Left Behind Act that allows the U.S. Department of Education to determine how every public school and school district in the country is performing academically according to results on standardized tests.

Mr. Brusca explained the metrics and performance index. Mx. Leghorn spoke about intervention programming and how data will be used. Achieve 3000 and Math 180 have been implemented. Mx. Leghorn explained how STAR data helped identify areas of intervention need. In the second semester, iterations will include reducing classroom size, revising curriculum, and restructuring dual literacy intervention classes.

#### **b. Mock Regents and Interim Assessments**

Mr. Ballantyne and Mr. Morris presented Mock Regents and Interim Assessments data. Mr. Ballantyne stated that utilizing these assessments will assist with college readiness. Results have been shared with teachers and Academy Leaders are identifying areas of need. Mr. Morris reviewed the Mock Regents results and Ms. Williams stated that she was pleased with the seriousness with which the students took these exams.

### **5. ENROLLMENT**

#### **a. Home Visits**

Tiffany McKelvy, Social Worker, presented data regarding home visits. Social Workers and Student Support staff have conducted a total of 27 home visits, 9 of which resulted in re-engagement. Two of the reengaged students are seniors over the age of 18. They were offered alternative paths to graduation.

Ms. Pierre reported that the School currently has 956 students enrolled both in ATS and in PowerSchool. The FTE is approximately 937. There were two new admits and one discharge in January. Ms. Eagen asked what recruitment efforts are being made to bring in new students. Ms. Pierre stated that the School hosted an open house and as the lottery approaches, she will be visiting middle schools and enrollment centers. Ms. Eagen encouraged everyone to recruit siblings and family friends of current students. She said this should be announced in the Daily Leaf as well. Ms. Eagen stated we need an all court press.

### **6. FINANCE**

Ms. Fernandez reported that the Finance Department is in the process of closing out six months ending December 31, 2017. A complete overview of the finances will be presented at the next meeting. Currently, the School has less per pupil revenue than anticipated due to lower enrollment and the Board is interested in seeing the impact on the budget.

### **7. HUMAN RESOURCES**

Ms. Williams reported that Little Bird continues to provide services. There is currently one science position open. Teacher recruitment for next year has started.

### **8. ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT**

Ms. Manion reported that she is overseeing completion of the DOE Annual Comprehensive Review and Quarter 2 Financial Report. She is also working with Recruitment to complete the Lottery Information submission.

### **9. FACILITIES AND SAFETY**

#### **a. Facilities**

Mr. James reported that a sprinkler pipe froze and activated the fire alarm on December 30, 2017. There was damage to network switches, pumps, tiles and flooring. An insurance claim is being processed.

**b. Safety**

Student altercations have declined. Two cell phones were reported missing. One belonged to a student; the other belonged to a staff member.

**10. TRENDS AND UPCOMING EVENTS**

Ms. Martin reported on school culture and efforts underway to combat sexting, bullying, and uniform violations. Mr. Rivera said he would like to survey students regarding women's issues to ensure everyone is heard. Ms. Thomas reviewed upcoming events and said our performing arts students will be attending Advocacy Day in Albany. Mr. Ballantyne reviewed senior fundraising initiatives.

**11. ADJOURNMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING**

- Mr. Rivera made a Motion to adjourn. Mr. Hobson seconded. All were in Favor.

**12. EXECUTIVE SESSION**