



MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 30, 2019

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

PRESENT

Lourdes Putz, Chair
Samuel Rivera, Trustee
Manuel Morales, Trustee
John Witherspoon, Trustee

GUESTS

Tanishia Williams, Head of School
Ellen Eagen, Attorney
Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber
Kate Manion, Staff
Kathy Fernandez, Staff
Matthew Carrenza, Staff
Kelly Thomas, Staff
Jahi Bashir, Staff

Val Jacobson, Head of Ops
Lester Samson, Staff
Shante Martin, Staff
Bao Nguyen, Staff
Lisa Kellar, Staff
Belnardina Madera, Staff
Tatyana Clement, Student Advisor
Karl Richards, Staff

EXCUSED

Advisor
Charles Hobson, Trustee

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

2. APPROVAL OF JUNE BOARD MINUTES

Ms. Putz requested to mark John Witherspoon as present and to include the Board slate from the June Annual Board of Trustees meeting.

- Mr. Rivera made a motion to accept the June 25, 2019 Board Minutes with amendments. Mr. Morales seconded. All were in favor.

3. HEAD OF SCHOOL AND ACADEMY LEADER REPORT

Ms. Williams introduced students who wanted to speak about the school's draft Yondr (mobile device pouches) policy, which would require students to store their cell phones in pouches for the entirety of the school day. Ms. Clement stated that she did not agree with the policy. She thinks it would be unsafe for students in the school. Ms. Clement said that many of her peers agree. The Board reviewed parent, teacher, and student survey data regarding the policy.

Ms. Williams reported that she is retiring the "Burning Flame Award" and instead would like to create a new award to honor Mr. Cruz. She introduced two Academy Leaders, Bao Nguyen and Jahi Bashir.

Mr. Samson reported on staffing, upcoming professional development, grade level orientations, and curriculum retreats.

Ms. Martin reported on Summer School, including, courses offered, enrollment, and APEX. The School will be introducing a Senior Bridge Program that will focus on the college experience.

Ms. Thomas reported on the Freshman Bridge Program. Senior mentors will assist incoming freshman and will be on site to assist with the transition into high school. Ms. Thomas stated that the leadership team and two seniors attended the Big



Picture Learning Conference in Detroit where they focused on restorative practices and creativity. Mr. Samson said they would like to continue the work throughout the year and partner with local organizations.

Ms. Williams reported that she's hopeful that the master schedule will be completed by the start of the new year. More funding may be needed on data work.

4. HEAD OF OPERATIONS

Ms. Jacobson reported on graduation rates and Advanced diplomas, Regents diplomas and Local diplomas. She also reviewed Regents pass rates and compared each test over the past six years. Ms. Jacobson said that Geometry scores doubled this year and that the new Global Studies II test had a 71% pass rate. Ms. Eagen asked to see how we did in comparison to the city and state.

Ms. Jacobson showed the results of the Yondr survey. 74% of 108 respondents disagreed with storing phones in pouches for the entire day. The majority of those who disagreed were students. Discussion occurred. Ms. Jacobson said that the full-day Yondr pouch pilot worked well during the Regents exams. Ms. Eagen stated that she is wary of locking away technology from students and that it may be counterintuitive practice for our students as they move onto college and careers.

5. RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

Ms. Jacobson reported that there are 714 students in PowerSchool and 914 students in ATS. The discrepancy is because the graduates were already discharged in PowerSchool, and ATS includes incoming freshmen. The FTE is 909.23. There are 262 completed registrations as of July 30.

Ms. Jacobson presented the Daily News email distribution and digital recruitment efforts across social media platforms. The school's Niche.com page received 359 views in June.

6. HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Kellar reported on new positions added, terminations, resignations and non-renewed contracts. She will be hosting a professional development about benefits, leaves and attendance policies. All staff will be mandated to take an online sexual harassment training. Ms. Kellar stated that the Personnel Handbook is being updated. She also reported on benefits and insurance considerations.

7. FINANCE

Ms. Fernandez stated that she is working on the Annual Report submission which is due to NYSED on August 1. The per pupil funding came to \$15,352,963. The school owes \$34,302.24.

Mr. Rivera said that he and Ms. Fernandez conferenced with the auditors. The auditors were positive and there were no major findings.

Mr. Rivera stated that the Board met with a representative from Signature Bank to invest assets in a high interest CD. This was recommended by the auditor.



- Mr. Rivera made a motion to establish and open a CD account at Signature Bank. Mr. Morales seconded. All were in favor.

8. FACILITIES AND SAFETY

Ms. Manion reported for Mr. James.

Facilities:

One HVAC blower motor was replaced. There was wall construction on floors 5 and 8. Room 513 has been converted to a health & fitness room. Cleaning and painting is being conducted. The exterior scaffolding is scheduled to be removed.

Safety:

There were no student altercations or NYPD visits in the month of July. There was one FDNY visit due to two fire alarm pulls. This is an ongoing investigation. A request was made to move two Summit Officers to in-house Safety Officers.

9. ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Manion presented the 2019-2020 Organizational Chart. Ms. Putz asked that it be revised so that the Special Education Services position is under both the Division of School Based of Operations and Division of Academics. She will be submitting the updated bell schedule and updated handbooks to NYSED as well.

Ms. Manion said that WCHS raised \$2,612 on GoFundMe in memory of Mr. Cruz.

Ms. Manion collected Disclosure of Financial Interest forms from the Board. Her summer work includes the VADIR/SSEC discipline submission and the Annual Report. She will be working on Title I in the coming weeks as well.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Rivera made a motion. Mr. Morales seconded. All were in favor.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session for a personnel issue.