



MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 28, 2020

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

PRESENT

Lourdes Putz, Chair
Samuel Rivera, Trustee
Manuel Morales, Trustee
John Witherspoon, Trustee
Karl Richards, Staff Rep.

GUESTS

Lester Samson, Head of School I.A.
Ellen Eagen, Attorney
Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber
Matthew Carezza
Tara Richards
Raymond James
Lisa Keller
Natalie Naftel
Bao Nguyen
Fausto Junior Gomez
Chevonna Hardy
Paul Leleck, Building Hope

Val Jacobson, Head of Operations
Kate Manion
Luke Hagen
Laura Rackmil
Jahi Bashir
Adrian Caballero
Kathy Fernandez
Ryan Fuller
Ivette E. Cruz
Yahaira Simon
Rebecca Miller

EXCUSED

Charles Hobson, Trustee

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

- Mr. Morales made a motion to approve the November 19, 2019 Board Minutes. Mr. Witherspoon seconded. One Abstention. All were in favor.

3. ALBERTO CRUZ GOLDEN APPLE AWARD

Rebecca Miller, a new science teacher at the school, was awarded the Alberto Cruz Golden Apple Award for the month of January.

4. HEAD OF SCHOOL AND ACADEMY LEADER REPORT

Mr. Samson stated that preliminary Regents data just became available. He and the team are still reviewing; however a quick analysis points to progress. Ellen Eagen requested that he provide to the Board as soon as possible.

Mr. Samson also reported on 2020-21 course catalog progress, upcoming student led conferences, learning walks, and a Big Picture Learning Advisory visit. Mr. Samson will soon share results of the 360 Leadership Survey. He also reported that Academic Counselors received Naviance training.

Mr. Samson presented the 2020 Summer Calendar for Board approval. Ms. Eagen noted that this calendar supports summer reporting deadline and Mr. Samson stated that staff and administration support the calendar.



- Mr. Morales made a motion to approve the 2020 Summer Calendar. Mr. Witherspoon seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Nguyen that 32% of 9th graders are on the honor roll. Students have accumulated 165,697 Hero Points. 75 students have an 85% or higher average GPA.

Mr. Caballero stated that 26 10th graders received high honors and 36 students are on the honor roll. Students have accumulated 221,222 Hero Points and 9 are on the Principal's List.

Mr. Nguyen reported on Ms. Douglas' behalf. 35% of 11th graders have received academic honors. He stated that the 11th grade has a highly active student council. The student council has assisted with events including the Holiday Crafts Fair and Glow Party.

Ms. Simon stated that 1033 college applications have been sent out and that 33 acceptances have been received to date. 85 12th grade students received above a 70 in the Math Regents and 108 students achieved a 75 or higher on the ELA Regents. 9 students have acquired an Advanced Regents and 70 students have received a GPA of 85 or higher after Trimester 1.

Ms. Eagen asked meeting attendees to reflect on the relatively new academic structure. She discussed how the Board made a decision to add new staff and return to the original vision of the school to support grade academies. Several staff members voiced support for the newer structure.

Mr. Samson stated that he will provide a summary of interventions and supports off-track students have and are receiving at the March meeting. The Board discussed APEX online learning and whether or not students are benefitting from it. Ms. Eagen requested that Ms. Manion review our charter to see if any amendments need to be made pertaining to online learning.

5. HEAD OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Ms. Jacobson stated that she scheduled students, proctors, and rooms for the administering of 1269 Regents Exams across 10 subject areas for the January 21-24 Regents testing. Operations staff drafted, generated and mailed 730 letters to parents detailing their child's specific January Regents schedule and distributed copies to students via Advisory. Staff utilized School Messenger for daily Regents-specific email reminders to parents the evening before each of their child's January Regents exams. Staff are generating January Regents score reports and data reports, generating Progress Reports for Trimester 2 for mailing, preparing Per Pupil Invoice for Payment #5 due January 30, are attending a PowerSchool Scheduler Professional Development on January 30 and 31, and are preparing media outreach to lead up to the Lottery on April 1.

Ms. Jacobson presented a proposal for a bus advertising campaign with Outfront Media with a total cost of \$10,345. The Board discussed the expenditure and the potential benefits of the campaign.

- Mr. Witherspoon made a motion to accept the OutFront Media bus panel proposal. Mr. Morales seconded. All were in favor.



6. RECRUITMENT AND ENROLLMENT

Ms. Jacobson provided the Recruitment report on behalf of Ayisha Gomez. Enrollment in PowerSchool and ATS is 953 and 955, respectively. The FTE is 936.02. The school received 1127 applications in 2019-20, with one application in process. There are 13 pending discharges for students with zero attendance.

Ms. Jacobson reported on ongoing recruitment efforts, including, monthly open houses, advertisements, high school fairs and tours of the building.

7. HUMAN RESOURCES

Ms. Kellar reported on staff recruitment efforts, benefits, and Human Resources compliance, professional developments, and training. Ms. Kellar stated that WCHS will be hosting a staff recruitment fair in April.

8. FINANCE

Ms. Fernandez reported that as of December 31, 2019, the total collected revenue for the period was \$8,476,991. Expenses were \$8,002,655 with a surplus of approximately \$474,336. Total assets are \$16,400,000 with a deferred rent of \$9,586,786.

The Board reviewed the financial report and discussed substitute teacher costs, per pupil funding, and disposal costs.

9. FACILITIES AND SAFETY

Facilities

Mr. James reported that there were no visits from the Department. of Health. One HVAC board was replaced and three light ballasts required replacement. Hand railings were repaired.

Safety

There were three student altercations on school property and two altercations off property. There were four NYPD visits with two mediations. There was one false ADT alarm response, one EMS visit, and one FDNY inspection visit.

10. ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Manion reported on the January 13 New York Daily News story that named the school. She stated that the school responded to the Daily News on January 13 and January 17. She also sent responses to News 12 and 101 Wins, two outlets that contacted the school directly. Ms. Manion also contacted several other outlets that picked up the story with the school's response. She stated that the New York Charter Schools Association reached out to her for assistance on January 14. Ms. Manion is working on edits to the Title I Desk Audit.

Ms. Manion also provided a development and marketing update. The school will be participating in the New York City Charter Center's "I Am NYC Charter School" campaign. She will be sending out a Google Review link for NHS students and staff. She promoted the winter coat drive across free online posting lists, received suggestions from the Co-Creators Group for website improvements, is coordinating the release of a recording studio music video with Mr. Ferguson, is scouting locations for a spring art show with Mr. Failla, and has scheduled a scholarship fundraiser at a local venue for February 7.



11. ADJOURNMENT

- Mr. Morales made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Witherspoon seconded. All were in favor.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION