



MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 14, 2021

The meeting was held via Google Meets at 5:07pm.

PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Jahi Bashir, Head of School I.A.
Ellen Eagen, School Attorney
Over 22 Virtual Participants

Val Jacobson, Head of Ops
Mary Kenny, Minutes Transcriber

1. WELCOME

Ms. Putz welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER BOARD MINUTES

- Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve the November Board Minutes pending school counsel review. Mr. Morales seconded. Mr. Witherspoon and Ms. Gaffney abstained. All others were in favor.

3. ACADEMICS

Mr. Bashir reported that 63 trimester credits (.67) were earned during the first round of credit recovery. Round 2 has begun and will end at the end of January 149/214 seniors are on track to graduate in June. An additional 56 have the potential to graduate with credit recovery options 15 students are eligible to graduate in January.

4. COLLEGE AND CAREER UPDATES

The College and Career newsletter continues to be distributed monthly in both English and Spanish. Grades 9, 11, and 12 are participating in CCR Classes.

Mr. Bashir noted for the record that WCHS transitioned to remote learning on December 10 due to student safety concerns. He commended the staff for the way they handled themselves. Mr. Bashir provided next steps the school would be taking in response:

1. Use of wands to check students each day
2. Continued student bag checks
3. Before and after school police presence (will notify the 90th precinct and reach out to our school officer)
4. Follow-up with SWIPE and use a color system to identify students during lunch periods
5. Long advisory small group meetings to discuss recent events, etc., the community covenant, and student responsibility
6. School-wide implementation of seven habits particularly in advisory.
7. Use of student organizations to help promote the message of "Community"
8. Review of student reporting procedures
9. Continued vigilance and wrap around student support

5. OPERATIONS

Ms. Jacobson reported that Trimester 2 schedules were issued and report cards will be mailed on December 17. The per pupil invoice was submitted on November 29. School meal applications continue to be collected. Interviews for the HR Manager position are continuing.

6. LAPTOP & WIFI INVENTORY

Ms. Jacobson reported that 994/1,294 laptops are in circulation. 105 hotspots are loaned out.

7. COVID UPDATES

Ms. Jacobson reported that the Kings County transmission rate is high. The positivity rate is 2.19% in the 11206 zip code and 3.28% citywide. There is a 54% vaccination rate in the 11206 zip code. There is currently limited evidence about the severity and risks of the recently identified omicron variant, but early signs show it may spread rapidly. The World Health Organization has already classified it as a Variant of Concern. Ms. Manion reported that NYC DOE COVID screening testing is still occurring weekly. About 25-35 students are being tested per week.

8. SAFETY

Ms. Manion reported on behalf of Mr. James. Six altercations occurred at the school and two occurred outside the school premises. Two bag searches were conducted and the NYPD is on alert due to two online threats.

9. FACILITIES

Ms. Manion reported on behalf of Mr. James. The second floor skylight needs repair, but Mr. James does not believe the roof needs to be completely replaced. Damaged lockers were replaced. Mr. James thinks some lockers will need replacing soon.

10. ENROLLMENT AND RECRUITMENT

Ms. Jacobson reported that enrollment is 994 in PowerSchool, 990 in ATS, and the FTE is 956.3. This includes two pending discharges and 31 zero attend students.

The next virtual open house will be on Saturday, January 8, 2022. WCHS attended a middle school fair at FGPA on December 3. 50 students attended. The Daily News email blast will be going out in January and online marketing continues.

11. FINANCE

Ms. Fernandez stated that the collected revenue is \$5,977,265. Total expenses are \$5,889,745. The excess of revenue over expenses is \$87,520. The property tax exemption was submitted on November 9.

12. ACCOUNTABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT

Ms. Manion stated that she, Ms. Rivera-Putz, Ms. Eagen, Mr. Bashir, and Ms. Jacobson met with our SED liaison, Paolo Giovine, on Monday December 13 to obtain approval to transition to remote learning from December 14-23. SED approved this request.

- Mr. Rivera made a motion to approve remote learning from December 14-23. Ms. Gaffney seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Revisions to the ARP ESSER were submitted on Monday, November 22. The BEDS Staff Snapshot and IMF were submitted on November 17 and 19. The ESSA Fiscal Transparency Report was submitted ahead of the December 31 deadline thanks to Ms. Fernandez. The Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) portal opened on December 13. The report is due in February.

The staff representative to the Board, Karl Richards, resigned. We will be opening up applications for staff and student representatives in January.

Ms. Eagen addressed a student petition that is circulating relating to safety concerns at school. She stated that within 48 hours of the petition's publication, administration reached out to the student and met with them. Ms. Rivera-Putz, Ms. Gaffney, Ms. Eagen, Mr. Bashir, Ms. Jacobson, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Martin, Ms. Bailey-Douglas, Mr. Nguyen, Ms. Helliger, and Ms. Manion were present. Ms. Eagen stated that it was an effective meeting that showed support and transparency about how the school can improve and move forward. The student rep gave thoughtful feedback and Ms. Eagen said these conversations will continue moving forward.

Mr. Morales gave an update on the purchase of the space adjacent to the school. He has started our application with the BSA and has reached out to Build NYC.

Ms. Manion reported that the WCHS Canned Food Drive (led by Daelyn P. of NHS and Ms. Johnson) collected 800lbs of canned goods for City Harvest. The WCHS Toy Drive (led by Ms. Angie) will be supporting Positive Beginnings, Inc., a

special education preschool in the Queens area servicing children ages 3-5. Giving Tuesday was on November 30. WCHS raised \$1,120 for a family of a former student who passed away; \$1,295 for a new privately awarded scholarship for undocumented students; and \$775 for a student who suffered a house fire. Mr. Bashir, Ms. Jacobson, and Ms. Manion met with Eric Joerr from the New York City Charter Center on December 1 to learn more about working with elected officials in our area. The WCHS Holiday Party will be on Friday, December 17 from 4-9pm at Pine Box (12 Grattan Street). All are welcome.

13. PARENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

Ms. McFadden reported that the next PLC meeting will be on January 5, 2022 at 6pm. A guest speaker from Growing Up NYC, an organization that provides families with access to information about city services, programs and resources, will be presenting. Ms Pink announced that there will be a pop up PPE and resource giveaway on December 18 at 10am.