

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
for the  
BEDFORD-STUYVESANT NEW BEGINNINGS  
CHARTER SCHOOL**

Meeting of December 18, 2014

**Members Present:** Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Kevin Nesbitt; Marlina Mondesir.

**Members Absent:** Angel Charriez; Leticia Theodore-Green (excused).

**Also Present:** Nicholas Tishuk (ED); Silbia Pagan (Dir. of Instruction, MS); Sabrina Del Sherpa (Dir. of Instruction, LS); Anthony Thomas, Dir., Student Culture); Richard Welch (Assoc. Dir., SPED and RTI); Vicky D’Anjou-Pomerleau (Assoc. Dir., K&D).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:16.

Mr. Sciame opened the meeting by noting that the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting had not been circulated yet.

Mr. Tishuk discussed the status of the School’s rechartering efforts, noting that, for the first time in history, the Board of Regents had, at the December 2014 meeting, not acted on the DOE’s recommendations to approve the rechartering of a new slate of schools, including BSNBCS. The vote was adjourned to the January 2015 meeting. He noted that DOE had recommended that BSNBCS’ charter be renewed for 3.5 years but that BSNBCS’ current charter was set to expire in January 2015.

Mr. Nesbitt arrived.

Upon questioning by the Board, Mr. Tishuk noted that it was likely that the DOE’s recommendation would be approved, but that the Regents were exercising their authority to have DOE personnel appear before them and explain their oversight over charters and the review process. Mr. Rivera and Ms. Russo noted their concern with respect to being named in news articles regarding the Regents’ action and Mr. Tishuk advised that he was reaching out to Regents to familiarize them with BSNBCS. Ms. Bramwell and Mr. Sciame asked if there had been reactions from teachers and parents and Mr. Tishuk advised that some teachers had sent e-

mails, but that there had been no general reaction from parents. Mr. Tishuk went on to note that a letter to the parents was being prepared to report on the eventual rechartering, but that no letter regarding the recent action had been prepared. Ms. Mondesir noted that a letter should be sent to parents regarding the recent action and the Board then discussed possible options for a notification. Mr. Nesbitt suggested a memo to the parents with a reminder that they could stop by if they had any questions. Mr. Tishuk said that he would prepare an e-mail blast for the Outreach Committee's review.

Mr. Tishuk reported on BSNBCS's operations, noting that mid-year reviews were under way and that a data set was being prepared for January's Board meeting. He reported that BSNBCS was in a good financial state.

Ms. Del Sherpa reported that LS teacher reviews had been completed and that all teachers were either in good standing or in good standing with qualifications. Ms. Pagan noted that one MS teacher was put on professional probation, consistent with their Individual Professional Growth Plan, and subsequently resigned their position. Otherwise, the review process was in full swing.

Ms. Mondesir asked about how the teacher who had resigned was being replaced and Mr. Tishuk discussed new flexible learning initiatives that were being implemented to better address school needs. Thus, the Spanish language course will be replaced in January with a literacy course, as the students have since completed their mandated NYS seat time hours for foreign language for 2014-15. A technology class will also be implemented in January, consistent with NYS requirements, to improve students' 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Mr. Rivera asked if these changes were permanent and Mr. Tishuk noted that they would be reviewed annually as part of an assessment of the School's needs. Ms. Mondesir noted that a future elective could be technologically based to help students learn how to better utilize and deal with computers.

On a motion by Ms. Russo, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the minutes of the November 6, 2014 meeting were approved, 5-0-1 (Mr. Rivera abstaining).

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board regarding an issue with a vendor who had not cashed a check for \$71,000 for prior services performed. The Board was concerned about the outstanding check not being cleared and the potential implications that may arise.

The next Board meetings were set for 1/22 at 6:00 pm and 2/12 at 6:00 pm.

The Board went to Executive Session to discuss the pending audit by the Comptroller's office, the retainer of pro bono legal counsel with respect to the audit and the legal position being taken with respect to such audit.

Mr. Nesbitt left during Executive Session.

The Board emerged from Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 8:50 p.m.