

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

Meeting of January 22, 2015

**Members Present:** Patricia Bramwell, Marlina Mondesir,  
Kevin Nesbitt, Cecelia Russo, Joseph Sciamie; Leticia Theodore-Green

**Members Absent:** Angel Charriez (excused); Victor Rivera Jr. (excused)

**Also Present:** Nicholas Tishuk (Executive Director); Sabrina Del Sherpa (Lower School Director of Instruction “LSDOI”); Anthony Thomas (Director of Culture); Jennifer Byrd (Ass. Director-Family & Community Engagement) Vicky D’Anjou (Ass. Director-Knowledge and Development), Richard Welch (Associate Director of Special Education and RTI); Jennifer Unger (Special Needs Learning Coach, SWD)

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Mr. Sciamie started the meeting at 6:20pm, with a quorum present. The minutes from the December meeting were presented for approval.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Russo and seconded by Ms. Bramwell, the minutes of the December \_\_, 2014 meeting were adopted, with all necessary corrections, by a vote of 5-0.

Ms. Russo presented a question regarding Executive session for clarification. “Can notes be taken during Executive session? In a legal sense, what are the rules we should follow?”

ED Tishuk stated that notes can be taken during executive session. If an authorizer, the DOE, or a lawsuit was presented, they can request the notes. If requested, we can present the notes. ED Tishuk listed the reasons for Executive Session: personnel matters, legal strategy and real estate matters.

Mr. Nesbitt gave a recollection of how he conducts Executive Session at John Jay, stating he keeps the action items of the session. Ms. Theodore-Green arrived at 6:33pm.

Ms. D’Anjou informed the Board that she received guidelines from the charter center and will send to the board for their records and review.

ED Tishuk began his Executive Report and changed the order from the agenda. The school’s general update would be first, followed by the city controller audit and then an update on the SED and Re-chartering process.

The Board was presented with a one-sheet report regarding the school general update. Before ED Tishuk began his presentation, Chairman Sciame gave his thanks on behalf of the Board to the ED for shepherding the renewal process and going to Albany for the vote.

Ed Tishuk stated with the re-chartering process complete, he will now be able to put more focus on the academic portion of the school. As per the Regent recommendations, we have to improve our academics. The 2015 Academic Strategy was presented. The Ed stated that in the February meeting e will present the data to give the board a complete picture. In the ED’s presentation he stated eight areas he will focus on:

- a. Strengthen teacher professionalism and feedback from Directors:

Ms. Unger stated that the new Kim Marshall evaluations being used at the school helps her to evaluate herself and grow as an educator.

- b. Continue Consistent Professional Development:

Our professional development replaces the DOE structure of professional development. We provide consistent training for the teacher and structure their schedules to accommodate professional development. Teachers work as a team, based on grades, in terms of professional development instead of having classes presented to the whole teaching environment. Mr. Nesbitt asked, “How does this model include or incorporate expertise?” Ms. Unger stated that all the meetings are planned and the teacher utilize each other, it is pulled from within the school. In the event that no one from the school has the expertise, a school wide professional development is provided. Mr. Thomas spoke to deans training for right response. The two deans were near expiration on their certifications and attended a two day in school training, which also was a train the trainer class. The deans are now able to train the school.

- c. Response to Intervention”

All required students are receiving their services. Mr. Welch described to the board a day for one of our scholars requiring services. Ms. Russo asked if any students had paras. Mr. Welch stated that the school has one para for a student but it is not needed for academic. The school is now in compliance. The students in the process or not receiving services, they are transfer students recently accepted. Ms. Theodore-Greene asked how many students were transferred this year. Ms. Byrd stated about 20 scholars. Mr. Welch stated that with our RTI program we will have 72% this year, an increase since last year was 14%. The board asked if there are parent support and how

many evaluations were conducted this year. Mr. Welch stated that the school had 11 evaluations and parents are really supportive. Ms. Unger stated that some parents seek services because it will be in the best interest of their children.

d. Saturday Academic Program:

Ms. Del Sherpa presented the board with the note that went with our scholars regarding Saturday school. 47% of the 3-7 grades scholars attended the first Saturday school. Grades 3,4,5,7 we given mock exams, went over test strategies and answers. Parents were given data at the end of the day and student took notes. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade used I-Ready on laptops to get an accurate baseline for where they are. Also the program is designed for students to take what is needed: ELA vs. Math.

e. New Academic Coursework:

The replacements in the middle school were discussed in the last meeting. There will also be a creative writing class for younger levels.

f. Ongoing Assessments:

We will discuss in further detail in the February meeting.

g. Culture Intervention and Behavioral Supports:

Mr. Thomas presented the Disciplinary report (8/14-12/14). The culture team haven't had any "pushback" due to communication in OSS. The bus issue several months ago is no longer an issue. We communicated the rules to the scholars and parents. Bus tickets are now being issued by the drivers and we also discussed tactics with the bus drivers. Mr. Nesbitt asked, "What is level 4 and what does that entail?" Ed Tishuk stated that level 4 is disorderly conduct. By law we have to provide learning for 2hours but not in the classroom. The school wants to have a good balance between hard discipline and being a pushover. All documentation is prepared in preparation for appeals.

h. Ongoing Parent Engagement:

The Family Center is available for parents, and the parent portal is being used.

Chairman Sciame stated the board would like to see the progress of the strategy provided. Ed Tishuk stated that the strategy presented is high level and the school focus in on the day to day. In February, his presentation will have real time data.

ED Tishuk presented the financial report for the first quarter. We are anticipating income from SPED. We are no longer in debt.

In terms of facilities, The ED is working with the same law firm that is assisting with the audit to request city funds for students in terms of rent. We were denied our initial request and we are now going to appeal. The first school that was denied just won their appeal.

In terms of the audit, we are complying with the audit. Our law firm is the intermediary between

the auditor and the school. The Auditor is reviewing and we are waiting to hear back.

The renewal process was focused on performance. Ed Tishuk stated, "We have some opportunity to see academic promise."

The cafeteria violation is resolved.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Theodore-Greene, the Executive Director's report was approved. Ms. Russo brought the concern for a revised organizational chart and with review, vote 6 - 0.

Ms. Theodore-Green presented the development committee report. The committee had a conference call. Since budget meetings are coming up, Ms. Theodore-Green spoke to Assemblyman Cagney about our need for capital funds. She will present our needs to his chief of staff and include how the money allocated will benefit our scholars learning ability. Capital funding has to be in by March 29<sup>th</sup>. Ed Tishuk stated that as a lessee, we are looking to see if we can apply as the applicant. We are eligible for discretionary funding. Ms. Theodore-Greene also stated that the committee will speak on the school behalf to the borough president office. She is also setting up a meeting so the school can articulate their needs in person.

Ms. Russo presented the academic committee report. She stated the committee will have a conference call next week. The Ed provided an organization chart and the framework for hiring in preparation of the call. Moving forward, we will discuss the certification and the qualifications of the teachers. The initial hiring group was informed of the vigorous process with the requirement of a master's degree. The changes will be discussed during the conference call.

Mr. Nesbitt presented the engagement committee report. He stated that we have a great leadership team communicating to parents. The Committee worked with the ED on the communication to the parents regarding the re-chartering process. Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Mondesir attended the First Friday meeting hosted by the school with parents. "It was wonderful to see the Ed and Ms. Byrd talk to parents as real partners." After the official meeting, some moved to the Family Center to discuss the school process further.

ED Tishuk discussed the issue with the boiler. The tank is old and is in need of repair. Ed Tishuk is trying to be proactive rather than reactive. The school had 4-5 bids. The Ed recommends that we move oil tank and build a new tank in the same room as the boiler; move to dual heat (oil and natural gas); the process can take 3-6 months. The Ed is currently looking for 2-3 realistic bids for this process. The VD conversion is detail process and we would need approval from the diocese. The process will take 6 months, requiring permits, removal, etc. the ED is asking the board to be authorized to proceed in acquiring bids on boiler situation.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Russo, the Executive Director was granted with the authorization to acquire bids, vote 6 - 0. He is also to send his analysis of the bids to the board for their review.

Chairman Sciame stated that the ED is looking for someone to provide training in board development.

Upon a motion by Ms. Russo, seconded by Ms. Bramwell, the Board voted 6-0 to recess the meeting at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Board was to be on February, 12, 2015 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlena Mondesir  
Acting Secretary for the Board Meeting