

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

Meeting of October 20, 2014

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

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

**Also Present:** Maria Campos (DOE); Nicholas Tishuk (ED); Silbia Pagan (Dir. of Instruction, MS); Anthony Thomas, Dir., Student Culture); Richard Welch (Assoc. Dir., SPED and RTI); Vicky D’Anjou-Pomerleau (Assoc. Dir., K&D); Jen Byrd (Assoc. Dir., Family and Community Engagement); Vito Badamo (Fin. Assoc.).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 7:32 pm.

Mr. Sciame opened the meeting by noting that the Board had met with a DOEE representative for approximately 90 mins. prior to the meeting.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the minutes of the September 19, 2014 meeting were approved, 6-0-1 (Mr. Nesbitt abstaining).

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board on the School’s finances, noting that an update had been made to the proposed budget to make it more up-to-date. He advised that the more up-to-date calculations had increased the School’s revenues by over \$500,000 due to SPED reclassifications and higher enrollment. Mr. Tishuk noted that now “in the black.” Mr. Badamo noted that the only remaining significant debt was \$73,000 owed to Gabriel Associates, the School’s construction consultant, which was soon to be paid off.

The Board questioned on how the the increased revenue would be used and was advised that it had, in part, paid for a contract “leave replacement teacher” and improvements in faculty technology.

On a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, the budget was unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Mondesir asked about the library and was advised By Mr. Tishuk and Mr. Thomas that the library space was currently being used as a multi-purpose room (primarily for recess and phys ed) and that classroom libraries were being utilized instead. Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau noted that the School was in the process of setting up NYPL accounts for the students.

Ms. Pagan advised that the School had almost completed two months in operation and the integratiuon of new systems was progressing well. In particular, she noted the creation of Profession Learning Committees ("PLCs") where other staff coordinated with faculty to best integrate School initiatives into the academic program. Ms. Pagan noted, in particular, that Mr. Valdes had met with the PLCs to determine how to integrate service learning goals into the lesson plans. Ms. Pagan noted that she and Ms. Del Sherpa had begun their one-on-one observations and coaching as a prelude to assessments.

Mr. Rivera asked if there had been any "push back" from teachers regarding new initatives and was advised by Ms. Pagan that they would know after the reviews were completed.

Mr. Welch advised the Board that Speech and Occupational Therapy counseling was going strong in the School and that Physical Therapy was commencing the next day. He noted that he was starting to move beyond the initial phase of assessment to IP meetings and that all such meetings had been scheduled. Mr. Welch further noted that RTI programs were now beginning in earnest with the establishment of the baseline data. He pointed out to the Board that a three-tiered system with increasing individualized focus would be used to determine if IEPs were necessary. Mr. Tishuk noted that meetings of the Committee on Special Education had been held at the School and that such access was being used to help our kids.

Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau advised the Board that staff questionnaires had been distributed and that a subsequent report on culture and data would be forthcoming. She further advised that the Service Plan was in full swing and the improvements to the web site were on-going. She noted that a Student Government Club had been formed.

Ms. Byrd informed the Board that PTCs had been scheduled for Election Day with phone conferences scheduled for parent who could not make that date. Mr. Rivera asked about the Parent Portal and Ms. Byrd responded that it was working well and noted that color coding made it easier for parents to note academic or behavioral difficulties quckly. Ms. Mondesir asked if anecdotal information was available only to staff and was advised that, at present, that was indeed the case.

Mr. Thomas noted that there was 100% parent participation whenever a behavioral issue had been identified. He advised that there was an issue on buses, but that the use of THRIVE tickets on the bus was helping to alleviate the issue. He advised of the commencement of a THRIVE volunteer program with CUNY, a college tour program with SJU and a trip for students to John Jay.

The Board asked about the recent issues in the School's area regarding criminal activity and were advised that steps were being taken to address and inform about these issues. For example, Saturday programs were being restricted for the moment to parents only (with students starting in January) and lockdown drills had been conducted.

Mr. Thomas advised that the School had partnered with the Tribeca Film Institute for a Young Filmmakers program and with WNYC for a Radio Rookies program. He then advised that the School's Awards Ceremony would be held on November 7 at 9 - 10 am (for K-4) and from 2 - 4 pm (for grades 5 - 7).

Mr. Rivera asked about the previously discussed issues with the 7<sup>th</sup> Graders. Ms. Pagan noted that she was working with them on Fridays and had split the boys and girls for these special programs to deal with the issues. Mr. Thomas noted that the Student Council was now active and he believed that it would have a positive effect.

Mr. Charriez reported that there were issues being addressed with regard to the Building.

Mr. Nesbitt reported that the Engagement Committee was working on a couple of projects.

Mr. Sciamè reported on the meeting between Mr. Tishuk and some Board members and Councilman Cornegy. Mr. Tishuk advised that Councilman Cornegy was potentially interested in funding help for the School in the future and noted that the Councilman wanted to visit. Mr. Tishuk noted a Business Breakfast could be held at the School.

Mr. Sciamè noted that there was a need to find new Board members. Mr. Rivera agreed, but noted that all such discussions in the past had not lead to new members being added because of a philosophical dispute over what the Board needed new members to do.

Mr. Sciamè noted that he and Mr. Tishuk had met with the Diocese and hoped that it would lead to the Diocese helping in a lobbying effort with regard to payments to charter schools renting private space to defray the cost of the rent.

Mr. Sciamè noted that the next two Board meetings would be on November 19 and December 18.

Upon a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 9:12 p.m.