

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

Meeting of February 12, 2015

Members Present: Patricia Bramwell, Marlena Mondesir, Cecelia Russo, Joseph Sciame; Angel Charriez

Members Absent: Victor Rivera Jr. (excused), Leticia Theodore-Green (excused); Keven Nesbitt (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. Sciame started the meeting at 6pm, without a quorum present. The minutes from the January meeting were presented for approval.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Russo, the minutes of the January meeting were adopted, with all necessary corrections. The motion was tabled until we achieved quorum.

ED Tishuk started the meeting with the school status. The audit is ongoing. The school and their legal representation is working with the audit team to provide all necessary documents. As mentioned previously, all documents and communication is handled by our legal representation and directed and from the school.

The boiler situation has been investigated. There has not been interruptions in school activity. One possible solution recommended is to keep the pipes running. The boiler is checked nightly. Necessary replacements were made on the boiler. The permanent solution would be to replace the boiler.

Ms. Russo asked, “Is there any recourse from the diocese?”

ED Tishuk stated that he has spoken to the diocese. The school had to ask permission for the changes needed and made. In terms of finance, they haven't offered to pay. Ed Tishuk has not mentioned it to help maintain the friendly relationship. The budget has been adjusted to accommodate the needs.

ED Tishuk is hopefully that the facilities funding from the state will be given to the school. The funding is approximately \$2,800 per student in the 6& 7 grades. This might help with financing the boiler project.

We are officially renewed until June 30, 2018. Ms. Russo asked if the changes in Albany affects the charter world. ED Tishuk gave a brief history on the new speaker. He seems to favor facilities aid. After the parents met Senator Dilan during Advocacy Day, the school sent a letter to follow up on their conversation signed by parents. The school is looking to set up a meeting with Senator Dilan and his son.

ED Tishuk presented the academic data for ELA and Math. There were questions from the board on how certain topics were taught, i.e. multiplication, how the scholars can improve; summer packets. Ms. Del Sherpa commented on how the students are taught multiplication in the 3rd grade. Ms. Pagan commented on how the middle school students have shown improvement especially in math. There was a phobia that has lessened. The 3rd and 4th grades are now learning test taking skills which will help with the state exams.

Ed Tishuk stated based on the data and what is shown in the classroom, the scholars can definitely improve. The school leadership team is focusing on how to move a child from one level to the next and how to show accountability for that. The main issue is the school hasn't learned how to teach 2 years in one year. The school is looking at new ways to help students accommodate the deficiencies i.e. scientific calculator. The leadership team is also looking at new hires, changes in staff. Staff is going to other charter schools to learn different strategies.

Mr. Thomas stated that his team continues to work so that the classroom is conducive. Teacher know that we are there to support them.

Chairman Sciamé commented on the team atmosphere that is obvious in the school leadership but expressed concerns that funding has to be focused more on the facilities upkeep rather than support staff.

Ms. Russo presented the education committee report. The education committee had a conference call. Kevin Nesbitt, Marlina Mondesir and Cecilia Russo represented the board. The Kim Marshall evaluation process seems to be working. The Ed explained the credentialing process to the committee. The committee understands the process but would like to encourage credentialing. Until finances improve, we should look at alternatives to praise the teachers. The other concern is language. The charter states we have language. Even though our scholars have hit their language requirements, we should look for a permanent solution. There was also a concerns with staff changes.

ED Tishuk stated that it is hard to find qualified teachers but they will continue to search. The data will shape how the school staffs next year. The school has signed up for 5 job fairs and are following up with candidates.

Ms. Russo stated that the board appreciates the transparency. Our concern comes from being told constantly that staff had to change due to financial concerns. What is done in terms of PD? Does someone come in from the outside to help train teacher or is all internal?

ED Tishuk stated that the school accommodates when needed. Ms. Unger confirmed the ED statement stating that the PD she attended to in August regarding how teacher received help and training has been consistent.

Chairman Sciame asked for a one sheet of all the PD conducted for the school year, which ED Tishuk assured he can provide.

Ms. Byrd discussed the new banner created for new families as we are now in recruitment season. The school has redesigned the one sheet in English and Spanish. The banner will be displayed in front of the school. There is also an online tab on the website for recruiting. Ms. D'Anjou and her new hire has helped Ms. Byrd to make the changes quickly. Their goal is to make the school visible. The waiting list has been depleted. Ms. Byrd is working with the community to give information to daycares for kindergarten. She will also update the InsideSchool website.

In terms of financial updates, there hasn't been any bid updates from mid-year report. The ED is building savings when he can as a buffer when needed.

Ed Tishuk presented the Engagement committee in Mr. Nesbitt's absence. He discussed the losing of our community garden. Due to the plan to build affordable housing in the community, the city has given the space that is usually reserved for community gardens. The community garden visited by our school is on the list to be destroyed. The scholars attended a rally on Tuesday. The school will likely host events for this cause.

Ms. Mondesir spoke to the schools' First Friday event. She discussed the parent's trip to Albany for Advocacy Day and the conversation with Senator Dilan. The parents and scholars who attended were able to speak to the school needs and he seems responsive. Ms. D'Anjou created a letter that the parents reviewed and signed to be sent to the Senator. Mr. Thomas came in and spoke to parents on needs and wants and how the school can help in the process. ED Tishuk spoke to parents about the needs and political issues that affect the school.

Angel Charriez arrived at 7:15.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Charriez and seconded by Ms. Russo, the minutes of the January meeting were adopted, with all necessary corrections. Ms. Byrd discussed the Parent organization plans in the future. They are working on a school store and are looking at several items. The school (teacher and scholars) will partner with the parents on a healthy cookbook

utilizing the vegetables in our urban garden.

Ms. D'Ajou presented the development committee report. She discussed the school sending in their request for discretionary funding. The list includes materials for improving the scholars' education with equipment or facilities upgrade.

Mr. Welch discussed his department. The school's SPED results are comparable to the school's numbers for the scholars. Math is lower. This shows that the SPED team is working and the students are learning.

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.

The next board meeting dates are: April 21, May 19 and June 16th at 6pm. At the May retreat, we will discuss retreat dates.

Upon a motion by Ms. Russo, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board voted 6-0 to recess the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The next meeting of the Board was to be on March 17, 2015 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlena Mondesir
Acting Secretary for the Board Meeting