

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

Meeting of March 6, 2014

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

Members Absent: Angel Charriez (excused); Mike Nieves; and Leticia Theodore-Green (excused);

Also Present: Joshua Morales (ED); V. D’Anjou - Pomerleau (Special Asst.).

* * * * *

A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:04 pm.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the minutes of the September 19, 2013 were approved, 4-0-1 (Mr. Rivera abstaining).

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the minutes of the December 19, 2013 meeting were approved, 3-0-2 (Mr. Rivera and Ms. Russo abstaining).

Ms. D’Anjou-Pomerleau arrived.

The Board discussed with Mr. Morales whether other staff needed to attend the Board meetings to report. Mr. Morales advised that it would be duplicative of the information that he could present and that the staff did not wish to attend. Mr. Sciame asked how the Board would know if staff was unhappy with things going on at the School. Mr. Morales believed that bringing other staff in twice a year would be sufficient if the Board required them to appear at all. Ms. Russo asked about the turnaround time for questions brought up at the meetings, wondering if the Board would need to wait a month for the response. Mr. Morales advised that questions could be placed to him at any time with a deadline for a response and such requests would not need to wait for a meeting. Mr. Morales noted that many of the types of questions or information requests could be dealt with effectively in subcommittee meetings.

Mr. Nesbitt arrived.

The Board discussed the need to get the subcommittees back on track. It was agreed that staff could be invited to subcommittee meetings on notice to Mr. Morales.

Mr. Morales advised the Board that there had been some attrition in the School's population and that he was dealing with SPED issues. He reported that there were 70 SPED students and that 1/3 of them were now in self-contained instruction to prevent issues within the classroom.

Mr. Morales reported that he was seeking a grant in the amount of \$199,000 for work on the roof and the urban garden project.

Mr. Morales reported that teacher recruitment efforts had begun and that the teacher hiring process had been overhauled to ensure that there was Board involvement on each hiring committee. He noted that the new hiring procedure would require each teacher to re-apply for his/her job. The Board discussed the new teacher evaluation and hiring process. Ms. Rusoo and Mr. Nesbitt wondered if the re-application and separate teacher evaluation was redundant. Mr. Morales noted that final teacher observations would take place in March.

Mr. Morales noted that the DOE had visited the School and reviewed the disciplinary/grievance policy, as well as other School policies, and determined that changes had to be made. Mr. Morales provided the Board with a revised Handbook addressing the DOE's concerns as to discipline and School culture, as well as a letter recently sent to all families regarding the school uniform policy. The Board was asked to review the revised Handbook and be ready to vote on its implementation at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Morales noted that the Fifth Grade classes were proving particularly troublesome this year and having academic difficulties. Resources such as Khan Academy, iReading and other supplemental instruction were being used to bridge the gap. Mr. Morales pointed out that Fifth Grade attendance at the Saturday Academy was low.

Mr. Morales noted the need for either a second ELL instructor or a change in the instructional model to handle the number of ELL students at the School.

Ms. Pomerleau-D'Anjou noted that the School needed to gain a better understanding of how to use available metrics to determine the path forward.

The Board discussed the recent Notice of Property Lien sent by the City. After Mr. Rivera advised the Board of possible legal consequences arising from Notice, it was agreed that Mr. Sciame would forward the notice to the Diocese inasmuch as the Lien was its responsibility to handle.

The Board then was advised of the recent issue regarding the reimbursement of utilities paid by the Diocese. It was noted that Mr. Charriez had worked to ensure that future billing for utilities would be directly billed to the School.

Mr. Morales requested that the Board please review the proposed budget for next year for approval at the next Board meeting.

Ms. Pomerleau-D'Anjou advised the Board of potential grant programs being used and a healthy cooking initiative for the weekend that 30 families had signed up for.

Mr. Morales reminded the Board of the need to hold a fundraising gala and invited Board members to a May 2014 carnival to look at possible templates.

Mr. Morales and the Board discussed the Independent Qualitative Review Process being conducted by NYCSI, including how NYCSI was chosen to conduct the review.

Mr. Nesbitt reminded the Board that help was available to the School through John Jay. A program with a Service Learning component would provide people for 12 - 20 hours to aid the School if the School reached out to John Jay.

Mr. Sciamè advised that the next meeting would concern a review of the revised Handbook, the re-chartering efforts for the School, and the issues related to the Lien.

Upon a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 8:04 p.m.