

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

Meeting of March 27, 2014

Members Present: Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Angel Charriez; Leticia Theodore-Green; Marlina Mondesir.

Members Absent: Kevin Nesbitt (by phone);

Also Present: Joshua Morales (ED); Karen Jones (AL); Kashani Stokley (COO); Valerie Moniz (Dir., Student Support Servs.).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the minutes of the March 6, 2013 meeting were approved, 5-0 (Mr. Rivera and Ms. Theodore-Green absent).

Mr. Rivera arrived.

Ms. Russo noted that the School handbook should be translated into Spanish and wondered if parents would read it. Mr. Morales noted that the template of the Handbook had passed DOE scrutiny on multiple occasions. Ms. Russo noted that parents were required to sign the Handbook upon receipt, but that the signature did not mean that they had read it. Mr. Morales advised that the DOE was satisfied with the present “sign for the Handbook” structure.

Mr. Sciame advised that he had referred the matter of the property lien to the Diocese for resolution and had been advised that the General Counsel was dealing with the matter. Mr. Rivera noted that a letter had also been sent to Councilman Cornegy regarding the mixup.

Ms. Theodore-Green arrived.

Ms. Russo reported that Mr. Nesbitt would be handling a service learning opportunity for the School in conjunction with Mr. Morales. Ms. Russo also noted that the EdCom was concerned with the issues regarding 5th grade discussed at the last meeting and noted that Ms. Jones had

reported to the EdCom that there had been a problem with the quality of the teachers for the grade. Ms. Russo noted parent concerns with respect to obtaining information regarding the 5th grade teaching situation. Mr. Morales and Ms. Moniz advised that they would follow up regarding concerns, but noted that responses regarding non-permanent LCs were not necessary.

Mr. Sciamè asked if more parent meetings were needed and Ms. Moniz advised that the School would have followup meetings, but that the PO was preoccupied with an event that it was planning.

Mr. Morales advised that the School was trying to coordinate regarding a Spring Gala and wanted to organize events that would showcase the School, like another Town Hall.

Ms. Jones reported on the 5th grade difficulties and noted the efforts underway to address the issues, including a planned parent meeting and more personal oversight of the LCs. Ms. Jones noted that a group within the grade had improved, but that there were still disruptive elements creating a chaotic environment in the grade.

The Board discussed the issue of dealing with disruptive students and Mr. Morales noted that a mitigation strategy was being attempted and the staff was “doubling down” on the academic issues. Mr. Sciamè asked how other schools dealt with these issues and was advised that they were having the same problems. Mr. Morales advised that additional support staff was the best solution, but that monetary constraints prevented him from hiring an on-site guidance counselor and school psychologist. Ms. Mondesir noted that there needed to be a consistency of approach with respect to disruptive students.

Mr. Sciamè asked if the middle school expansion into 7th grade next year would lead to a staffing problem. Mr. Morales advised that it would not require a significant expansion of TAs, but would require the hiring of more support staff.

Mr. Sciamè asked about the rechartering efforts and was advised by Mr. Morales that such effort would realistically commence in September, but that the IQR presently under way would be a major step in determining what the School had to do. He advised that the IQR report was about 6 weeks away.

Mr. Morales stated that he was still working on the budget for the Board’s approval. Mr. Charriez reported that he was in the process of working with the Parish regarding the Con Ed reimbursement issue, and had made clear to the parish that the School would not pay for any tax or other charges that it did not have a legal requirement to pay.

Mr. Morales reported to the Board on his trip to Albany with other charter leaders to discuss the facilities funding issue with the Brooklyn delegation. He noted that the delegation members were surprised to learn that the School had a 19% SPED population and a 7% population of ELL students, but that precious Title 2 resources were being withheld.

Mr. Morales advised that, absent a large drop in enrollment prior to the end of the year, the School would finish the year with a comfortable financial reserve.

Mr. Morales announced to the Board that he would be resigning his ED position as of July 1, 2014. He stated that he would be willing to stay on as a consultant to the new ED after July 1, 2014, but would no longer perform ED functions after his resignation date. He advised the Board that a new ED should be brought on by May or June 2014 to facilitate a transition whereby the new ED could shadow him for some time prior to his resignation. Mr. Morales advised that he would present 3 or 4 options to the Board regarding the search process.

Mr. Sciamè requested that Mr. Morales send a formal resignation letter advising that his last day would be June 30, 2014. Ms. Theodore-Green noted that the School should contact the Charter Center to obtain information.

Mr. Sciamè note the long-standing need for new Board members.

Mr. Morales advised that a Search Commission should be activated immediately and a conference call scheduled to start the search process.

Mr. Nesbitt (by phone) noted that the Engagement Committee was pursuing a relationship with John Jay.

Ms. Bramwell advised that she attended the Good Eating Event at the School and was impressed.

Mr. Morales noted that the Urban Garden Project was doing well.

Mr. Morales advised the Board that the School needed to do a fundraising event and needed to raise \$50,000.

Ms. Theodore-Green advised the Board that she could readily help bring members of the Brooklyn delegation to the School if it would help.

Upon a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 7:37 p.m.