

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

Meeting of April 21, 2015

Members Present: Joseph Sciamé; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Angel Charriez; Cecelia Russo; Marlena Mondesir.

Members Absent: Kevin Nesbitt (excused); Leticia Theodore-Green (excused).

Also Present: Nicholas Tishuk (ED); Silbia Pagan (Dir. of Instruction, MS); Sabrina Del Sherpa (Dir. of Instruction, LS); Anthony Thomas, Dir., Student Culture); Richard Welch (Assoc. Dir., SPED and RTI); Vicky D’Anjou-Pomerleau (Assoc. Dir., K&D); Jennifer Byrd.

* * * * *

A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:09.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, with Ms. Russo seconding, the minutes of the March 17, 2015 Board meeting were approved, subject to correction, by a vote of 4-0-1 (Mr. Rivera abstaining).

Mr. Sciamé noted that he had visited the School website and that it needed work. He wondered if a reminder on the site a day before a Board meeting would make sense.

Mr. Sciamé advised that he had recently met Regent Cea (Staten Island) at a function and that he had reminded her that he would love to host her at the School. He stated that he was attempting to finalize a time for such a visit.

Ms. Russo asked when the Board would receive any updates with respect to grades on the State exams. Mr. Tishuk advised that the formal scaled results would be available in December, but that raw information could be available in June. Ms. Del Sherpa advised that, while no specific scores would be received early, the School would get notices regarding people who scored a “1” on the tests. Mr. Tishuk advised that such notices would be a factor to consider with respect to promotion decisions.

Ms. Russo noted that over 60% of students opted out of the State exams in Nassau County. Mr. Tishuk advised the Board that only 3 students opted out at the School and another 4 did not take the exams for other reasons. The Board then discussed the “opt out” movement.

Mr. Sciame noted that the School had received its official charter extension.

Mr. Sciame reminded the Board that the School would be having an award ceremony on May 15.

Ms. Mondesir advised the Board about the Engagement Committee’s activities, noting that she was at a career Fair and had information to pass on to Ms. Byrd. Ms. Mondesir noted that the tour of John Jay had been delayed and was being rescheduled. She further noted miscommunication issues that had plagued the PO with regard to planning events. Ms. Byrd noted that, while the PO met monthly, there was not a lot of follow up on issues and ideas raised at the meetings.

Mr. Tishuk noted that he had not denied any request from the PO because no request had been made to him. He noted that there had been a workshop for parents earlier in the school year to help them with their goals. He advised that he wanted an independent PO, but with school involvement. Ms. Mondesir noted that the PO had contacted two banks with regard to opening up a bank account in its own name. Ms. Byrd noted that she had “reset” the PO at the last meeting and wondered if the group should be renamed the Parent Family Organization.

Mr. Tishuk reported on BSNBCS’s operations, noting that the School was in the middle of State testing and that enrollment planning was well underway.

Ms. Mondesir asked about lockers and Mr. Tishuk said that he was looking into it, but needed input from others because of possible Building Code issues.

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board that new hiring was underway and Mr. Rivera asked if there was an anticipated opening for a guidance counselor with a focus on high school preparation/transition. Ms. Pagan said that was already in place and noted that 8th graders would have workshops, school visits and application help available to them next year. Mr. Rivera then asked about scholarship help and Ms. Pagan noted that such help would be available as well.

Mr. Sciame noted that the School would be receiving an additional \$147,000 annually as a result of the School’s rejected facility request to the DOE.

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board on the progress of the Comptroller’s audit, noting that he, Mr. Charriez and Mr. Badamo had been interviewed by the Comptroller.

Mr. Tishuk then advised the Board about the state of the Building itself, noting that a new gas tank for the boiler had been obtained and that the School was still dealing with violations stemming from the Building's use prior to the School's lease of the premises.

Mr. Charriez arrived.

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board that 22 staff members had received offers of employment for the next School year. Ms. Russo advised that she had been advised regarding the offers.

Mr. Tishuk advised of attempts by the School to partner with Pfizer and the Tribeca Film Institute.

Ms. Mondesir asked about the recent School trip and Ms. Pagan advised that 27 students had gone to a Mets game as a reward for participation in the after-school program.

Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau advised the Board that she had attended a Harvard program regarding architecture and finding that how a space is used can affect learning. She noted that she is trying to put together a group of people to work on a vision for how the Building can best be utilized. She advised that a financial/fundraising plan for the facility could be targeted to specific uses that the School wanted to create or improve.

Mr. Tishuk advised on the financial condition of the School. He noted that the School was in good shape financial and had enough money to increase hiring and still have a good amount to put away.

Ms. Bramwell asked about the Parish's use of the Building and Mr. Tishuk advised that they had been using the Building every Sunday without a problem.

Mr. Tishuk advised that he would have an updated budget for the next Board meeting.

Ms. Mondesir advised that she had re-read the IQR issued last year and reminded the Board of two specific recommendations that had been made: (1) the structure of Board meetings should be revised so as to alternate committee reports, i.e., have them report on a bi-monthly (and not monthly) and staggered schedule, and (2) the Board should focus specifically on issues that it wishes the School leadership to address at the Board retreat. Mr. Tishuk noted that questions should be provided to the leadership before June 1 to allow the leadership to utilize those questions as part of the agenda for the Harvard conference on strategic planning that he would be attending with Ms. Pagan and Ms. Del Sherpa.

On a motion by Ms. Mondesir, with Mr. Charriez seconding, the Board unanimously moved into executive session to discuss Mr. Tishuk's evaluation.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, with Mr. Rivera seconding, the Board unanimously moved to come out of executive session. On a motion by Mr. Charriez, with Mr. Rivera seconding, the Board then unanimously authorized the academic committee to revise and circulate the ED evaluation form.

Upon a motion by Ms. Russo, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 9:30 p.m.