

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

Meeting of June 16, 2015

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

Members Absent: Leticia Theodore-Green (excused).

Also Present: Nicholas Tishuk (ED); Silbia Pagan (Dir. of Instruction, MS); Sabrina Del Sherpa (Dir. of Instruction, LS); Wanda Morales (Dir., Operations); Anthony Thomas, Dir., Student Culture); Richard Welch (Assoc. Dir., SPED and RTI); Vicky D’Anjou-Pomerleau (Assoc. Dir., K&D); Jennifer Unger, Chakia Alexander, Darrell Osborne, Luequites Oliver, Angel Umpierre, N. Aaron.

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:15.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, with Ms. Mondesir seconding, the minutes of the April 21, 2015 Board meeting were approved, subject to correction, by a vote of 4-0 (Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Charriez absent).

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, with Ms. Russo seconding, the minutes of the May 19, 2015 Board meeting were approved, subject to correction, by a vote of 3-0-1 (Mr. Rivera abstaining; Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Charriez absent).

Mr. Sciame advised the Board that he had the executed contract for Mr. Tishuk to serve as ED for the 2015/16 school year.

Mr. Sciame advised the Board that David DeSilva had donated \$2,500 to the School as an unrestricted grant for the School’s use.

Mr. Tishuk advised that the School was in the process of wrapping up operations for the school year. He further advised that the School was in good financial shape, with enough money at the end of the fiscal year to pay the final payroll with a significant amount (in excess of \$600,000) left over in reserve.

Mr. Tishuk noted that he was in the process of reviewing the end of year letter that would be sent to the parents, stating that it would be made available to them in a variety of methods, including the parent portal on the School website. He advised that August 24 would be the first day of the new school year and that color coded calendars were being created and distributed to parents and students.

Mr. Tishuk advised that a list of requested classroom materials had been prepared for parents. Ms. Del Sherpa noted that about 75% of the parents had followed up and provided the requested materials. Ms. Mondesir asked how much of the materials provided were actually used and Mr. Tishuk responded that nothing would go to waste.

Mr. Nesbitt arrived.

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board that end-of -year PTCs had been held and were well-attended by parents. He noted that letters regarding the children's final grades already had been sent out to everyone.

Ms. Russo asked if the School received anything from Cookies, the recommended supplier of School clothing. Mr. Tishuk responded that the School had no financial relationship with Cookies.

Mr. Charriez arrived.

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board about his trip to Harvard with Ms. Del Sherpa and Ms. Pagan for seminars on how to improve the School and its operations. Ms. Del Sherpa noted that a lot of the focus of the workshops she attended was on the proper use of professional development. In particular, she noted that Summer PD was effective when used properly. She advised that she was working on a Summer PD plan. Mr. Sciame asked about attendance and Ms. Pagan advised that there were about 145 attendees at the program. Mr. Nesbitt asked if the program was limited to charters and Mr. Tishuk responded that there were a number of different types of schools, including a number of DOE "turnaround schools", attending.

Mr. Tishuk introduced Ms. Morales, the new Director of Operations to the Board. Ms. Morales talked briefly about her background and was then welcomed by the Board.

Ms. Mondesir asked about a year-long Saturday program and Ms. Pagan advised that she was working on it.

Ms. Russo, on behalf of the EdCom, discussed with Mr. Tishuk the form of report card that had been presented to parents, noting that the form did not appear to require that a signed report card be returned to the School. Ms. Russo wondered whether this system satisfactorily addressed her concern that parents were actually seeing the report card. Mr. Tishuk noted that the report cards were distributed in person to parents, usually just before the PTC. Mr. Nesbitt then asked what the percentage of parents attending the PTC was. Ms. Mondesir believed it was a good majority and Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau advised that the percentage was between 75% - 80%. The Board was advised that, if a parent failed to appear at the PTC, a follow up call was made. Ms. Mondesir noted that the on-line Parent Portal also had the relevant information on it.

Mr. Tishuk, on behalf of the FinCom, advised the Board that the 2016 Propose Budget would be forthcoming. He noted that it would be a budget in excess of \$10 million and that increases in health insurance costs and staff costs were expected.

Mr. Sciame asked about the status of the Comptroller's audit and Mr. Tishuk advised that they audit team was still in residence. Mr. Nesbitt asked about the scope of the audit and Mr. Tishuk noted that they were looking over the last two fiscal years. Mr. Tishuk noted that he was unaware of any major issues raised by the Comptroller's audit team.

Ms. Russo asked about the insurance coverage for staff and Mr. Tishuk noted that he had surveyed the staff regarding the old and new policies. He further noted that the staff appeared to be happy with the new coverage.

Ms. Bramwell, on behalf of the Engagement Committee, advised the Board of two successful events recently attended by her. She noted that the First Family event was well attended and she told parents there that the Board wanted to help and work with the PO. Ms. Bramwell then noted that the Community Fair was attended by her, Ms. Mondesir and Mr. Rivera. Ms. Bramwell noted the tremendous turnout for the event and then she, Ms. Mondesir and Mr. Rivera praised the staff for their efforts in putting the event together. Mr. Sciame asked if the event would help the PO, but Mr. Rivera noted that the event was not targeted solely at the parents. Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau noted the presence of a number of community people, as well as members of CB3 and Morgan Stanley.

Ms. Pagan advised the Board that the MS was beginning to turn to High School preparation and that students would be working with counselors this year to help them get ready. Mr. Tishuk noted that no other school in our district had this type of program.

Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau notified the Board of the Financial Policy amendment required by new reporting guidelines created by the Federal Government. She note that FinCom had reviewed the amendment and Mr. Charriez confirmed that the Amendment had been removed and that it was necessary for compliance with new Federal requirements. Accordingly, on a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the Board voted 7-0 to adopt the Financial Policies and Procedures Addendum drafted by CSBM.

Ms. Mondesir then led a discussion regarding Board On Track and the results of the on-line Board survey prepared by them. She noted that the usual transition of a Board was to evolve from a “starter” board in the first 3 years to a more strategic board focusing on overall priorities. Mr. Sciame noted that the Board particularly was in need of a succession plan and new Board members. On a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the Board voted 7-0 to retain Board on Track to provide assistance to the Board on its own professional development. A proposed motion to engage Board Assist was tabled for the next meeting.

Mr. Nesbitt left.

The floor was opened for public comments and Mr. Unpierre, a departing SPED Learning Coach, addressed the Board, noting the need for a teacher presence on the Board. He advised as to what he believed were deficiencies with respect to the SPED program and urged more PD for learning coaches and better support for teachers generally.

Upon a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board unanimously agreed to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and legal advice regarding the Committee audit.

Upon a motion by Ms. Russo, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the Board unanimously agreed to come out of Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 9:15 p.m.