

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

Meeting of September 16, 2014

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

Members Absent: Kevin Nesbitt (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); Jen Byrd (Assoc. Dir., Family and Community Engagement).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:01 pm.

On a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Ms. Bramwell, the minutes of the August 19, 2014 meeting were approved, 4-0-2 (Mr. Rivera abstaining; Ms. Theodore-Green not present).

A correction was noted for the minutes of the July 24, 2014 meeting.

Mr. Tishuk advised the Board that a complete historical set of the minutes was now being retained by Ms. D’Anjou-Pomerleau.

Mr. Tishuk introduced a representative of Fruchter Rosen & Company, P.C., the School’s accountants, to go over the draft financial statements and audit letter for the School. After reviewing the drafts with the Board and going over the School’s financial position, the Board was advised that the School had no material deficiencies to be reported. It was noted that 84% of the School’s expenses were spent on programming and only 10% were spent on administration and that the School’s Per Pupil Allotment from the State, combined with Federal Grants, were sufficient to pay the School’s total expenses.

Mr. Rivera corrected an error regarding the accountant's statement that Nixon Peabody was the School's law firm, noting that, while Nixon Peabody had been engaged through the Lawyer's Alliance to help with the negotiation of the Lease, the engagement had ended at that point.

Ms. Theodore-Green arrived.

On a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the audit report was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Tishuk introduced Ms. Pagan to discuss the state of the Middle School.

Ms. Pagan advised the Board that the Middle School was up and running at almost at full enrollment. She advised that she was looking for full enrollment in the after school program and noted that there were presently 56 kids from the 6th and 7th grades enrolled in the after school program. Mr. Tishuk noted that Ms. Pagan had "undersold" the difficulty in ramping up the Middle School Program, including the lining up of new partners for the School.

Mr. Sciame asked about any difference in culture or attitude with respect to the 5th and 6th graders and was advised by Ms. Pagan that 5th and 6th graders were fine, but that there were problems with 7th graders that she attributed to issues related to the turnover in staff.

Ms. Byrd advised that the first Family First Friday event had taken place and was attended by approximately 50 parents and that the first PO meeting had taken place with approximately 13 parents attending. She further noted that the Parent portal had rolled out and parents now had on-line access to information regarding their children's attendance, grades, assignments and any disciplinary issues. Mr. Tishuk advised that a system had been created to monitor and normalize parent contacts with teachers and/or management. Ms. Del Sherpa noted that the School was making sure that there was teacher input into the Parent Portal system. Mr. Tishuk noted that the creation of the Parent Portal would also create an added level of accountability for teachers regarding grading.

Ms. Russo asked about any SPED issues. Mr. Welch advised the Board of the efforts made to reorganize the quality and availability of School's SPED data to ensure that required services were provided. He noted that approximately 20 students were receiving on-site occupational therapy and almost 40 students were receiving speech therapy.

Mr. Sciame noted that this was the first time that the Board had been notified of the specific breakdowns of the type of services being provided. Mr. Tishuk and the Board then discussed the general nature of learning disabilities and the myth that most of them are behavior-related.

Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau advised the Board that press and video packets were being prepared for the School. She further noted a relationship with the CUNY Service Corps would result in their coming to the School to help with certain matters.

Mr. Tishuk noted expressions of interest with respect to local tv production location scouts showing interest in the School and that any such arrangements would have to include a tie-in to School programs. Ms. Russo noted that the SJU production facilities could also tie into any such kind of program.

Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau advised that the historical Board Minutes were being digitized and all would soon be available on-line. She further noted that the dates of the Board Meetings for the 2014/2015 School year would be posted. Finally, Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau noted that the Board was required to fill out the Financial Disclosure forms that she had e-mailed to them.

Mr. Tishuk noted that he had been added to the Board as non-voting member.

Mr. Thomas advised the Board on School culture initiatives and noted successful meetings with all of the classes to discuss what was expected of them. He noted that there had been no suspensions as yet. Ms. Russo asked about student behavior on the buses and was advised by Mr. Thomas that it was OK.

Ms. Russo asked about staff reviews and Mr. Tishuk advised that they would occur in October and February.

Ms. Pagan, Ms. Del Sherpa, Mr. Thomas, Mr. Welch, Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau and Ms. Byrd left the meeting.

The Board discussed existing issues regarding payments owed to the former ED and the School's former construction consultant. Mr. Charriez advised that the School needed a little more detail in the invoices required for the ED's payment. Mr. Sciamé advised the Board that the consultant would be paid by December.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously went into executive session to discuss matters related to the IQE prepared by Charter School Incubator.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously moved out of executive session.

Mr. Sciamé commended Mr. Charriez for his work with Vito Badiamo (Finance Mgr.) And the Diocese to work out the existing issues regarding the long-standing request by the parish to be reimbursed for certain monies relating to electrical usage before the School obtained its own account. Moreover, Mr. Sciamé advised that any issues regarding the Parish's access to the School, as required by the Lease, for Religious Education classes on Sunday had also been resolved.

Ms. Theodore Green advised that City Councilman Cornegy would not be available for a tour of the School until November, but he was available to meet with School personnel on September

22.

Upon a motion by Ms. Theodore-Green, seconded by Ms. Bramwell, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 9:03 p.m.