

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

Meeting of February 11, 2011

Members Present: Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Angel Charriez; Mike Nieves; Thomas Alwood; Kevin Nesbitt;

Members Absent: Leticia Theodore-Green.

Also Present: Karen Jones (Academic Leader); Kashani Stokely (Dir., Ops.)

* * * * *

A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 5:50 pm.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Nieves and seconded by Ms. Theodore, the minutes of the December 17 meeting were adopted with all necessary corrections by a vote of 5 - 0, with Ms. Theodore, Mr. Alwood and Mr. Nesbitt not present.

Mr. Stokely noted that the school enrollment was down from 187 to 186 students, with the number about to fall to 185 when a student moves at the end of the month. The board discussed with Ms. Jones and Mr. Stokely the numbers regarding applications for next year and were advised that applications were coming in. Mr. Stokely noted that 12 open houses had been scheduled for prospective students to attend. Mr. Charriez asked that the school look into advertising in local newspapers for maximum effect.

Mr. Alwood arrived.

Ms. Jones advised the Board about school academic operations, noting that there had been significant academic progress for the 3rd grade classes. She noted that weekend programs for both teachers and students were well attended and that she was reaching out to parents to get them to buy into the weekend sessions. Ms. Jones spoke of her efforts with the 2nd grade team and their interactions with parents and noted that the parents were happy with the feedback they



were getting. Ms. Jones advised the Board about her observations and evaluations of the teaching staff, which included videotaping sessions to play back to teachers so that comments could be supported by visual evidence. She advised the Board that a 1st Grade teacher was on an extended sick leave, but that her class had been picked up by an associate teacher. At the request of Ms. Russo and Mr. Nieves, Ms. Jones and Mr. Stokely agreed to review the on-line certifications for the associate teacher, who has indicated that she wishes to remain with BSNBCS. Ms. Jones then advised that, while one KG class was performing well, the other was not. Mr. Rivera asked how many of the classroom teachers she would retain if she had to make the decision now, and Ms. Jones replied that she would choose to keep 7 of the 8, noting that one 3rd Grade teacher might not be cut out for the profession.

Mr. Nesbitt arrived.

Ms. Jones noted that teachers were working with parents on a weekly basis and that she was meeting with teachers every morning to emphasize the need to get parental involvement and communication. Ms. Russo asked when Ms. Jones would advise teachers of their prospects of returning for the 2011/12 school year and Ms. Jones said that she would like to let them know by May. The Board discussed with Ms. Jones whether teachers would advance with their classes or stay in the same grade and Ms. Jones said that she had not decided if that was best yet.

The Board discussed the suspension of a child with a prior history of disciplinary issues.

Ms. Jones noted that the PTO had organized and was meeting.

The Board discussed whether the students should participate in Advocacy Day in Albany next year.

Ms. Jones announced to the Board a \$1,000 grant from Verizon for the library, which she had used to order 322 books. Ms. Jones further announced that she had submitted a winning application for a grant to completely outfit the library. With this grant, the library will be outfitted with 10 computer stations, 50 bookshelves, tables and chairs, a raised area for KG story time, a flat screen TV and special tables for use at conferences. The Board congratulated Ms. Jones for her efforts.

Mr. Sciamie asked about other grants and Mr. Charriez advised that a computer grant was in the works. Mr. Nieves noted that he was still working on grants for capital improvements.

The Board next discussed the heating issue and was advised that the immediate heating issue had been resolved. Mr. Nieves then advised that approximately \$40,000 was needed to address boiler issues. Mr. Nieves then advised that he had gotten a plan for a new HVAC system and that the new plan was by a contractor who believed that it would cost less than the \$1.8 million quoted by the first contractor. Mr. Nieves noted that a new set of building plans was going to be required by any architectural firm because the plans on file with the City were incomplete. Mr. Nieves

noted that work on the upper floors of the building was almost complete. Mr. Nieves then noted that there was a circulation issue with the bathroom that also needed to be addressed.

Ms. Russo advised that the School of Education at St. Johns was sending another "blast" with respect to potential job hires and noted that she would look for a media specialist for the library.

Ms. Jones noted that Mike Duffy, now on faculty at Columbia, had contacted her about a screening of "Waiting for Superman," and noted that he had 100 teachers who wished to get placed at charter schools.

Mr. Charriez reported that the school had just issued a substantial check for work performed on the building and noted that the present plan was to cover the pool with a stage.

Ms. Jones was asked about the possibility of extending the school to cover to K-8, and the Board discussed possible options, such as chartering a separate school or leasing the space to an established school. Ms. Jones indicated that, if this option was pursued, it was her preference that BSNBCS start its own school for 6-8 to ensure that the established culture remained the same.

The Board discussed the use of photographs of our students on the website and noted that, despite the releases contained in the handbooks, the school should go slowly.

Mr. Nesbitt noted that Outreach Committee needed to engage with the PTO.

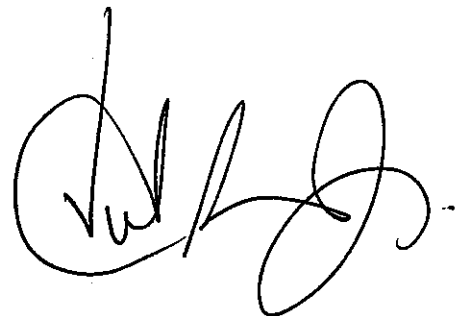
The Board approved a logo for use on BSNBCS materials and apparel.

The Board receive copies of the final version of the School Handbook.

The Board noted that Joshua Morales' role with the BSNBCS needed to be discussed inasmuch as he had advised the Executive Committee that he wished to remain with the School but needed to pull back from his role as COO. Mr. Sciamone noted that Mr. Stokeley had started to take on more of the responsibilities of a COO lately.

The Board set the following dates for meetings through the end of the school year: **March 24, April 28, May 19 and June 23**. The dates chosen were selected based on a general recognition that Thursday nights were better for meetings. All meetings will commence at 6:00 pm.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Jones", written in a cursive style.