

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

Meeting of March 3, 2010

**Members Present:** Joseph Sciamè; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Angel Charriez; Thomas Alwood; Kevin Nesbitt.

**Members Absent:** Mike Nieves; Angela Kirton, Ana Beauchamp; Michael Gaffney.

**Also Present:** Joe Martucci (Interim Head of School); Josh Morales (Consultant to Board); Bianca Velez (Assistant to Mr. Morales).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 3:07 pm.

Mr. Sciamè reminded the Board that Ms. Beauchamp had informally resigned from the Board, but that no letter of resignation had been received. He also indicated that Ms. Kirton had again not appeared at a Board meeting and requested that he be given permission by the Board to warn Ms. Kirton that another absence would be cause for her dismissal from the Board. Upon motion made by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board gave Mr. Sciamè that authority by a vote of 6-0.

The Board noted that Mr. Gaffney had advised that he would not be able to make the meeting, but that Mr. Nieves had not contacted anyone to advise that he would be absent.

The Board next reviewed the proposed minutes for the February 12, 2010 meeting and, upon the motion of Mr. Alwood, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the minutes were adopted as amended by a vote of 6-0.

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The Board next discussed the Parent Information Sessions ("PIS") scheduled for March 15 and March 29. It was determined that Mr. Sciame and Mr. Martucci would attend and that the Engagement Committee ("EnCom") would meet to see who would attend on its behalf.

Mr. Morales then notified the Board that he was ready to engage Vanguard for a mailing at a cost of \$2,000 per each 1,000 parcels. He advised that EnCom should be thinking about personal outreach strategies to pursue, but did not believe that the initial Vanguard mailing of \$8,000 to blanket the entire target area was warranted. He suggested that a more tailored distribution should be used initially. He noted that the "real" deadline for enrollment was June and that The Board should consider it a problem if it did not have 75% of expected enrollment by then. Mr. Morales advised that he would keep a running analysis of enrollment for the Board and that the date in April should be selected to do personal outreach in the community. Mr. Nesbitt agreed to handle the coordination of this effort.

Mr. Morales reported that Directors and Officers ("D&O") insurance could be procured from the Philadelphia Insurance Co. of California for the Board at a cost of \$3,000 through the end of the fiscal year and that liability insurance for the school could be purchased for the school year, commencing July 1, at a cost of \$12,000 through the end of the fiscal year. It was suggested that Mr. Rivera and Mr. Gaffney review the policies when obtained.

Mr. Morales advised the Board that he hoped to have Sabrina Folsom, a board governance training expert, at the next Board meeting to plan a two day retreat for the Board. Charter School Business Management ("CSBM"), a DOE vendor that trains business managers, would also be invited to attend. Mr. Rivera asked how long the School would need CSBM in place if retained and Mr. Morales advised that the Board should expect to engage it for about 6 months (to allow CSBM to adequately train School personnel) at a cost of about \$20,000 for the first year.

Mr. Morales advised the he had prepared the requisite paperwork to file to obtain an EIN, file a W-9 with the DOE, file the ST119 form, and obtain 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. He advised that it would be about 8 - 10 months before the School received confirmation of its tax-exempt status.

Mr. Morales advised that he had applied for the Charter School Planning Grant in the amount of \$400,000 and that the School could possibly be in line to receive an additional \$200,000. In response to a question from Mr. Charriez, Mr. Morales advised that the \$400,000 Planning Grant money would become available on July 1, but that he was trying to see if he could draw money down for the School prior to that date.

Ms. Russo asked about the impact of the budget problems in Albany on our potential funding. Mr. Morales advised that we were fine because the money already was allocated for this year and the Federal government had provided an additional \$5,000,000 to the State. He indicated that the shortfall would be most felt by new charter schools applying to open in 2011.

Mr. Morales advised that the provisional charter for the School had not yet arrived, but that SED had said it would go out next week. He said that he would try to obtain a copy through DOE and reminded Ms. Bramwell that the official copy of the Charter would be sent to her.

Mr. Sciame advised the Board that he will be aggressive in confronting the Diocese on the leasing question next week.

Mr. Martucci advised that he had met with Mr. Morales and noted that the job descriptions were supposed to be on the site today. Mr. Morales advised that the job descriptions were not yet complete.

Mr. Martucci advised the Board that, upon receiving resumes from instructors, he had set up demonstrative lessons for the candidates at the Hellenic school.

Mr. Martucci then provided the Board with the following timetable of events:

- 4/5: Enrollment Application Deadline
- 4/9: Lottery (if necessary);
- 4/20: Deadline for Literacy Through Library ("LTL") Grant

Mr. Martucci advised that anywhere from \$50 - \$150,000 was available through the LTL grant, but the grant writer contacted had quoted a too-large fee. Mr. Morales and Mr. Nesbitt wondered if the grant writer could be convinced to do the application on consignment, with his fee commensurate with the outcome. Mr. Morales advised that he would look into it.

- 5/10: Assessment for Grade 3 students;
- 5/31: Deadline for Academic applications;
- 8/9: Pre-opening Grade 3 lessons

Ms. Russo asked about the pre-opening lessons and was advised by Mr. Martucci and Mr. Morales that the lessons would be taught by Grade 3 teachers hired by the School and paid extra to help "at risk" children get ready for school. Mr. Nesbitt asked about the assessment process and was advised that the School, perhaps with the aid of a consultant, would perform the necessary assessments.

Mr. Morales advised that the hiring of qualified teachers would soon be a critical issue and said that initial assessment of qualified teacher candidates would first be performed by Mr. Martucci, who would then turn his results over to the Education Committee ("EdCom") for their recommendations to the Board. Mr. Sciame asked that EdCom and Mr. Martucci work on a proposed schedule and procedure for teacher hiring and report back to the Board.

Mr. Charriez then reported on behalf of the Finance Committee that the School had obtained a new tax id number and that the School's bank account was up and running. He advised that he would change the School's address on the account to the Charter School Center address. He further advised that all checks for the School would require two signatures and that the only three authorized signatories for the account were Mr. Sciamé, Ms. Bramwell and Mr. Rivera.

Mr. Charriez noted that he was disappointed that Mr. Nieves had not been able to attend the meeting and that he had not reached out to anyone to advise of the absence. Mr. Sciamé noted that it had always been difficult to reach Mr. Nieves by e-mail.

Mr. Sciamé next reiterated that the standing committees needed to meet and conduct and business.

Mr. Sciamé then advised the Board of the information meeting held at St. John the Baptist ("SJB") that the School had been invited to attend. He, Ms. Bramwell and Ms. Russo attended and someone from the Brooklyn Charter School also attended. He advised that the School had been invited to be available to hand out informational materials at the meeting, where the formal closing of SJB would be discussed, but that the organizers of the meeting had placed him on the agenda and forced him to make a presentation on behalf of the School. Mr. Sciamé reported that the crowd was not happy and that a particular person, an armed corrections officer in full uniform, had verbally harangued him regarding the school. Mr. Sciamé pointed out that this same person had left a verbally abusive message on the School's voicemail at the Charter School Center. Notwithstanding the crowd, Mr. Sciamé reported that the School was able to hand out 25 sets of information to interested parents.

The Board then went into Executive Session to discuss the Mr. Martucci and the organizational chart issue.

After ending Executive Session, the Board, on a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, unanimously voted to adopt the proposed organization chart and co-leadership model, with Mr. Martucci being retained as Academic Leader instead of Interim Head of School, 7 - 0.

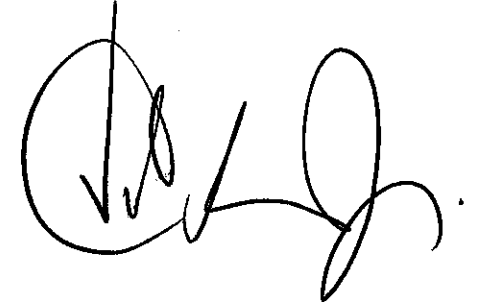
Mr. Sciamé then advised Ms. Velez that the Board wished to meet the new prospective Board member and she stated that she would try to arrange for an interview at the next scheduled Board meeting.

Mr. Sciamé then proposed that the next two Board meetings be held on March 19 at 4:00 pm and on April 9 at 5:00 pm.

Ms. Bramwell and the EnCom members advised the Board that Mr. Rivera would attend the March 15 PIS and that Ms. Bramwell and Mr. Nesbitt would attend the March 29 PIS.

Mr. Sciame then requested that the agendas for all meetings be posted on the website before the meetings are held to satisfy the publication requirement. Mr. Morales stated that he would do so.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board voted unanimously adjourn at 4:58 pm until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board on March 19, 2010 at 4:00 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a stylized name, possibly "M. Morales".