

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

Meeting of November 17, 2011

Members Present: Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Angel Charriez; Mike Nieves; Kevin Nesbitt; Leticia Theodore-Green; Tom Alwood (by phone).

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Karen Jones (CAO); Joshua Morales (COO); Kashani Stokley (Dir. Ops.); Marlena Mondesir (Co-Pres., PO); Rana Roberts (Co-Pres., PO).

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

Mr. Sciame reminded the Board of the need for the working committees of the Board to meet in between meetings and conduct business.

Mr. Charriez arrived.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Mr. Charriez, the minutes of the September/October 27, 2011 meeting were adopted with all necessary corrections by a vote of 6 - 0 - 1 (Ms. Theodore-Green abstaining), with Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Alwood not present.

Mr. Stokley reported to the Board on the School's operations, including enrollment and wait list numbers, and advised as to the work done on bathroom ventilation, new water fountains and the boiler. Mr. Stokley requested that all Board members submit brief bios to be placed on the Board website.

Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Morales arrived.



Mr. Morales reported to the Board on publicity received by the School for the Town Hall, the pending 501(c)(3) status of the School, and the financial status of the School, including the delayed receipt of Title 1 funds.

The Board discussed the issue of amending the charter to include a middle school (Grades 6-8) and were advised by Mr. Morales to review the Strategic plan and be prepared to discuss the issue at the next meeting with an eye towards a January 2012 decision. Ms. Jones noted that a potential new leadership structure also needed to be discussed with respect to the opening of a new middle school, and noted that parents' expectations were that the School would continue on through the 8th grade.

Mr. Alwood joined by phone.

Mr. Morales left the meeting.

Ms. Mondesir advised the Board about the Parents Organization and the items that they are working on for the upcoming school year. Ms. Mondesir and Ms. Roberts noted that there had been positive feedback from the parents regarding the Town Hall.

Ms. Jones reported to the Board on the academic standards of the school, including staffing issues, and the events that had been held at the school for students, parents and teachers. The Board discussed the videotaping of a seminar and presentation and Ms. Jones and Mr. Rivera agreed to discuss potential legal issues regarding the tape.

The Board noted two inaccuracies in the reports issued to the Board with regard to the identification of children receiving special services from the School and confusion with respect to the identification of certain students receiving guidance counseling and requested that the reports be vetted more thoroughly before they are distributed.

The Board also discussed the lack of a role of the Education Committee in the hiring of staff for the most recent open positions. Ms. Russo advised that the Education Committee would meet to discuss and report to the Board on its view of the role, if any, that it should have going forward in staffing decisions

Mr. Charriez reported to the Board on the financial status of the School.

Mr. Nesbitt reported to the Board on the Engagement Committee outreach to Parent Organization.

Mr. Sciame advised the board on the need to start development efforts to raise money for the School.

The Board discussed Mr. Alwood's pending resignation and the need to bring new members on the Board, including a parent member as required by the By-Laws, noting that a development and/or financial background would be especially helpful. Mr. Charriez advised that he was aware of a certified public accountant who was interested in potentially joining the Board and advised that he would gauge this person's level of interest in joining.

The Board discussed the qualifications and potential responsibilities of a parent Board member.

Mr. Nieves proposed a motion to invite a parent to sit on the Board with all rights and responsibilities except for a right to vote. After further discussion by the Board regarding the potential conflicts inherent in a parent sitting in on personnel and student issues, Mr. Nieves accepted an amendment by Mr. Nesbitt that the parent Board member would need to recuse themselves from all executive session Board discussions involving personnel issues and/or issues involving student discipline and/or confidential student information. Mr. Rivera seconded the motion, as adopted, and the Board passed the motion unanimously. After the vote, the Parent Organization was instructed to come to the next Board meeting with a recommendation as to how the parent seat would be filled.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Mr. Nieves, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 7:33 p.m. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board shall be on December 8, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.