

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

Meeting of November 15, 2012

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

Members Absent: Angel Charriez (Excused); Mike Nieves; Leticia Theodore-Green (Excused).

Also Present: Joshua Morales (ED); Karen Jones (AL); K. Stokley (Dir. Ops.), V. D'Anjou-Pomerlou (Special Asst.), V. Moniz (Dir., S.S.).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:10 pm.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Russo, the minutes of the September 20, 2012 meeting were adopted, with all necessary changes, by a vote of 5 - 0 - 1, with Mr. Nesbitt abstaining.

Mr. Morales reviewed the with the Board the dashboard advising of school operations and reported specifically on absences, disciplinary issues and metrics for the evaluation of the School's performance on the State exams. He advised that enrollment stood at 336 and Mr. Stokley advised that 5 students had left the School in the past month.

The Board expressed some concern regarding the data showing the School's academic performance.

Mr. Sciame asked about the October suspensions, but was advised by Mr. Morales that the number of suspensions was in line with last year's trend.

Mr. Morales advised that a fund-raising workshop would take place on November 27 and advised that three members of the Development Committee needed to attend. Mr. Rivera advised that he would attend, but Mr. Sciame stated that he could not. Ms. Green and Mr. Nieves will need to be contacted to determine if they can go.

Mr. Morales submitted a schedule of committee conference calls to take place on the first Wednesday of every month, commencing in December.

Mr. Stokley and Mr. Morales advised of a pending issue with a subcontractor who has failed to deliver approximately \$9,000 worth of work despite having been paid in full for his work. Mr. Morales advised that Mr. Ventegat was working on the issue and that Mr. Nieves had been contacted to see if he could intercede as well. Mr. Rivera advised that future payment to subcontractors from the School should follow accepted construction industry practice and include a 10% retainage provision to ensure that full payment was not received before work was completed.

Mr. Rivera asked about the status of the vault and Mr. Morales advised that the School was waiting to see what the Church was going to do with the property across the street and whether they would undertake to do the repairs.

Mr. Sciamme asked about the status of the charter expansion request and was advised by Mr. Morales that it had been submitted and a response was likely due in January.

Ms. Jones reported on the School's academic status and advised that the data previously reviewed was September baseline data and would not reflect the status of the students academic progress at this time.

Ms. Jones further advised that, because of the loss of development time due to Hurricane Sandy, she would have to revise her efforts to work with the staff and get them up to the level that she wishes. She advised that multiple approaches to the curriculum were needed because the curriculum by itself would be insufficient. She told the Board that the best teachers needed more feedback to further refine their methods and skill, but noted that newer teachers were having difficulty using the evaluation data to inform their instruction methods.

Mr. Sciamme asked how the lost development time would be made up and Ms. Jones advised that she would try to make it up in December, but that she would personally stay involved in one-on-one mentoring and training sessions for those who needed it.

Mr. Sciamme asked what was holding back the lagging teachers and Ms. Jones advised of a need for those teachers to use School resources (both time and personnel) more wisely. She advised that a SPED teacher had left the School due to a family issue requiring relocation and on the issues that it was creating.

The Board engaged in a general discussion on how to deal with children having educational deficits and how teachers could deal with them.

Ms. Moniz advised that the School newsletter would come out in December. She also advised of the commencement of a Scholar Dollar program. She further advised of the start of a Book Club for Parents program.

Mr. Moniz advised that the School was stretched thin dealing with children having SPED deficits, but that resources were forthcoming in the form of specialists coming to review the School and to work with the teachers on a common language approach to instruction. She also advised that 18 IEP referrals by the School should be confirmed shortly.

Mr. Sciamie asked about parent participation in the first Parent Teacher conferences and Ms. Jones said that about 95% of the parents had attended.

Mr. Sciamie asked about the teacher evaluation process and Ms. Jones advised that some teachers already were on notice regarding their performance. Ms. Russo asked if the Teacher Liason was in place and whether the TL was working. Ms. Jones answered affirmatively to both questions.

Ms. Jones, Mr. Stokley, Ms. Moniz and Ms. D'Anjou-Pomerleau left the meeting.

The Board generally discussed the School's participation in the inclusion method of instruction for SPED students, the teacher hiring process and school culture and the use of data as a tool.

Mr. Rivera noted that the dashboard reviewed at this meeting did not include the page regarding the performance of teachers. Mr. Morales advised that he had inadvertently failed to put it in. The Board requested that the data be included in the dashboard for each meeting and asked Mr. Morales about the trend for absences and "tardies" for teachers. Mr. Morales advised that he was in the process of sending letters to approximately 20 staff members advising that they already had used up almost all of their personal days. Mr. Sciamie advised that he was concerned over teacher attendance and its impact on School culture. Ms. Mondesir and Ms. Russo noted that it would be difficult to impart to students how important good attendance was if their teachers kept missing School themselves.

The Board forcefully advised Mr. Morales that the teacher data would be provided each meeting and noted that it believed that all of the data being provided via the dashboard was essential to the Board's understanding of how well the School was performing and where it needed to focus its efforts for further improvement.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Russo, Ms. Bramwell seconding, the Board unanimously voted to cancel the December Board meeting set the following Board meeting dates for 2013: January 17, February 28, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 20. All meetings are to take place at 6:00 pm. Mr. Rivera was advised to ensure that Mr. Stokley was presented with the new Board meeting dates so that they could be published on the School website.

Upon a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Ms. Bramwell, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 8:27 p.m.