

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

Meeting of Thursday, October 17, 2013

Members Present: Patricia Bramwell; Cecelia Russo; Kevin Nesbitt; Marlena Mondesir and Angel Charriez,

Members Excused: Joseph Sciame; Karen Jones (AL); and Victor Rivera

Members Absent: Leticia Theodore-Green

Also Present: Kashani Stokley (DOO); Josh Morales (ED) Valerie Moniz (DSS); Sabrinadel Sherpa (ADI) and Vicky D'Anjou-Pomerleau (KM)

The meeting commenced at 6:10pm and a roll was taken. Vice Chair Bramwell stated that in the absence of the Chair J. Scaime she would conduct the meeting. There was not a quorum when the meeting started so the meeting was to start to discuss matters but no vote will be taken. The Board Secretary had an injury and was unable to provide the Minutes of September 19, 2013, the meeting continued. Kevin Nesbitt arrived at 6:28 and a quorum was established.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: ED Morales gave the Ms. Del Sharpa the floor to discuss the school academic status. There were some concerns regarding the baseline for Singapore Math. Ms. Del Sherpa stated that the baseline is based on what children should learn by the end of the year. This type of baseline helps teachers to focus on needs and pacing. There will be Skype session with each grade level to discuss concerns with a Singapore Math professional. The professional will later train direct assistance with each grade level to close the gap. Math Buddies is an online supplement to assistant and the teacher will also receive professional development. Unit assessments are going up. AL Jones has been providing guidance to the teachers.

There will two formal observations for peer reviews. The first evaluation will be in November. The mid-year evaluation will occur in December-January and the last evaluation will occur in the spring. DOE has not sent out the report card for the school.

Time Management is a concern. Planning has to be an integrated into instruction. There is a focus on realistic expectations. The teachers will participate in virtual coaching, where the teacher will have an earpiece and will be coached through

difficult situations. After the assessment, they will review and discuss solutions and concerns. The focus is to reduce re-teaching.

C. Russo asked how many teachers are no longer with the school since last year. The answer was 2 teachers. C. Russo also asked how comfortable was the teachers in regards to Singapore Math were during the summer professional development session. The answer was the teachers were not comfortable. C. Russo was concerned, what was being done to support the teachers. The answer was that teachers are comfortable with the day to day instruction of Singapore Math. The administration is holding the teacher accountable. Teachers that are slipping are asking for support. J. Morales stated that their is data to help structure the professional development sessions. Using the baseline to see where there were deficiencies to hold the teachers accountable and using the 360 approach to help evaluate the teachers. Question brought to the table, "Is there a way to see growth or decline of the students?" Right now there are some solutions that J. Morales has to review and approve for the school year. Achieve3000 is an adaptable computer program, to cater to each child.

Associates are advancing well. The school has a full time speech pathologist. The SPED team has been effective. Professional development has been increased to twice a month from once a month.

The challenges the school has are in grades Kindergarten and 5th grade. Professional Development was given to the teachers in the summer regarding culture. Data should be an accurate description if how the children are doing. Suspensions are higher in kindergarten; half of the students have never been in school before. 14 students are SPED. Kindergarten was the highest grade in the "no absences" category in September. The school makes special allowances for outliers (those that require hospital stay and accidents). School will assist parents when needed. One child was discharged. The question, "Does the school have access to medical information regarding children?" The school only has the information that parents give to the school. Also there was a question if parent know that if there is a medical issue. The school is working to create incentives for regular attendance. There has been an increase from August to September. Out of school suspensions are included in the absence chart. There is a drop in attendance when there is a half day (affects grades 1-4). The 5<sup>th</sup> grade is having behavioral issues. There was a meeting for 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents to discuss issues and potential solutions.

As of October 10, there were 444 students registered; 3 children were discharged on October 17. The goal is to have at least 445 children registered, 450 are budgeted. K. Stokley and J. Morales will send out a mass mailing to get out waitlist numbers up. The schools' SPED number has increased. On October 21, the school will pilot 25 Samsung Note and tables. The Note will be used in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade for online works and note taking. The students will be able to take pictures as well for school projects. Security has been added to the technology. The tablet will be used for school trips. In the library a computer lab has been added.

Regarding the St. John's placement: We have not had any issues so far. K. Stokley has access to security cameras off site. There is a concern regarding the use of utilities. There needs to be more conversation over clarification of the language in



the contract. V. Rivera is reviewing. Once the contract is reviewed, J., Morales will notify issues and concerns to the board for discussion. There has been a concern over who is allowed in the space, "Teachers have to be vetted." J. Morales will review the "state vs. church" financial concerns.

Parent Engagement has become more strategic in their approach to gain parents. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month is a parent meeting, followed by a parent workshop. Ms. Byrd facilitates both the meeting and workshop. For the meeting she assists the parents (those who attend) what the parent committee will be about, revising bylaws and leadership. The first meeting was about norm setting. There has been an increase from previous year meetings.

In the parent meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade regarding behavior, parent asked for more feedback. The school staff didn't see a change right away but will continue to watch. Parents and teachers are coming up solutions. The focus is to give families the tools to implement at home and creating expectations. C. Russo asked if there is a way to send out the information presented at the workshops and meetings to parents who did not attend.

In regards to the management letter presented to the committee, there was a gap due to a late payment from the city. The independent consultant will address. The insurance coverage was increased from 1.5 to 2.2 million, to address concerns.

Generation On volunteers will build and maintain the urban garden at the school. NY Sun Works is putting up the garden. Students will also build and assist in the maintenance. V. D'Anjou-Pomerleau went on a field trip to PS 133 to see their urban garden project. At that school, the garden is open to all students and is part of the science and service learning curriculum.

V. Chair Bramwell brought up the dates for November - June for review. A motion to end the meeting was made by C. Russo and seconded by A. Charriez. The next meeting would be as previously scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2013 at 6pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlena Salvant-Mondesir