

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

Meeting of April 24, 2014

Members Present: Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Angel Charriez; Kevin Nesbitt; Leticia Theodore-Green; Marlena Mondesir.

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Joshua Morales (ED); Karen Jones (AL); Kashani Stokley (COO); Valerie Moniz (Dir., Student Support Servs.); Nick Tishuk (Consultant to ED).

* * * * *

A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:01 pm.

Ms. Theodore-Green arrived.

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the minutes of the March 27, 2014 meeting were approved, 6-0 (Mr. Charriez and Mr. Nesbitt absent).

Mr. Morales advised the Board that it was required to focus on charter reapplication and approve the Handbook.

Ms. Jones advised that Math assessments for the students were taking place next week, and that the School was working to help the students with that exam until the testing was over. She emphasized that K - 1 students must be ready for the next grades and needed to close the gap shown in internal assessments to date, especially in Math. Ms. Theodore-Green asked if students were being left behind and Ms. Jones advised that she was working on it. Ms. Jones noted that the students, including 5th graders, needed more help with Math. Ms. Jones noted the inopportune timing of BSNBCS teachers being absent at this critical time to grade exams at other charter schools, but Mr. Morales told the Board that the teachers were required to do so by its participation in the Charter School Collaborative.

Mr. Charriez arrived.

Mr. Sciamme noted that the internal assessment showed a lot of issues with respect to Math across the School. Ms. Jones advised that she did not believe the assessment to be an accurate predictor of the students' performance. Mr. Sciamme stated that we would find out after the tests.

Ms. Moniz advised the Board of a few areas of focus, including ensuring that all persons dealing with 5th Graders come to required meetings regarding the 5th Grade and dealing with work schedules to allay the increased number of incidents in the cafeteria. Ms. Moniz also noted that a PD was being scheduled for teachers to deal with understanding the challenges posed by students with behavioral difficulties.

Mr. Rivera asked if the school uniform problem discussed at last month's meeting was being addressed and Ms. Moniz noted that it was.

Ms. Russo asked how people were assigned to lunchroom duty and Ms. Moniz advised that teachers and support staff were all included and matched to grades. Ms. Russo noted the need for consistency of rules and Ms. Moniz advised that the School was treating this as an "all hands on deck" situation.

Ms. Moniz advised the Board of monthly follow-ups with the CSC regarding services that the School was not receiving and noted that 7 students were not receiving required speech therapy because of issues at CSC.

Mr. Morales noted that attendance was up. Mr. Sciamme noted that the School had put into place earlier an incentive program for good attendance. Ms. Moniz advised that the program needed to be restarted.

Mr. Stokley advised the Board on recruitment efforts for students and noted that he would be placing an ad in the Daily News instead of doing another mailer through Vanguard. Mr. Stokley noted that the Vanguard approach last year was not helpful last year. Mr. Stokley then advised of his teacher recruitment efforts and advised that he was going through 600 resumes with Ms. Jones.

Mr. Bramwell asked how many openings there were for teachers and Mr. Stokley advised that they were focused on hiring the teachers for the middle school and the new grade. Mr. Stokley told the Board that interviews were about to start and that 4 people were part of the screening process. Mr. Morales noted that candidates were fully vetted before they got to him.

Mr. Nesbitt arrived.

Mr. Morales reported that the School had taken a significant turn for the better in the past year and that he expected that the School would show a surplus of \$300 - \$400,000 for the year. Mr. Charriez confirmed the turnaround as nothing short of a "minor miracle" and stated that the Board should be proud of Mr. Morales' efforts in this regard.

Mr. Morales noted that a new Financial Associate, Vito Adams, had been hired.

Mr. Morales reported that the School was still waiting for the Parish to produce the required documentation for payment of the outstanding ConEd invoices and noted that the month's rent had not been paid because the Parish had not given them the monthly invoice for the rent.

Mr. Nesbitt asked if the DOE would question the School's allocation of money, given the surplus to be reported. Mr. Charriez advised that it was the Board's responsibility to now determine how the surplus funds would be allocated. Mr. Morales noted that the required dissolution fund needed to be increased to meet mandated levels. Ms. Russo asked if the surplus had been created by taking resources away from students and Mr. Morales advised that it had not.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously went into executive session to discuss matters related to the IQE prepared by Charter School Incubator.

On a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously closed the executive session.

The Board, on a motion made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Ms. Russo, unanimously voted to approve the 3/14 revision of the Handbook.

The Board, on a motion made by Mr. Charriez and seconded by Mr. Nesbitt, unanimously voted to see charter reapplication. On a motion made by Mr. Nesbitt, and seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board voted to discuss the question of whether the School should seek a different authorizer for reapplication or stay with DOE. After discussion thereof, the Board, on a motion by Mr. Charriez seconded By Ms. Russo, unanimously voted to continue with the DOE as its authorizer for rechartering.

The Board commenced discussion for the search for the new ED. Mr. Rivera, noting his candidacy for the position, left the room.

[Notes taken by Mr. Nesbitt] The Board agreed to prepare a job description for the ED position and approve same at the May 15 Board Meeting for posting on May 16 on job boards. The Board further agreed that the job listing would be posted through June 30 and that interviews for the position would commence on July 15 and continue through mid-August. The Board determined that the start date for the new ED would be as early as August 15, but would be flexible. The above schedule was approved by a vote of 7-0 (Mr. Rivera absent).

On a motion by Ms. Bramwell, seconded by Ms. Theodore-Green, the Board voted 7-0 (Mr. Rivera absent) to form a Search Commission, composed of Mr. Sciame, Ms. Russo, Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Mondesir, for the purpose of setting criteria for the ED position and vetting candidates for the position.

Mr. Rivera returned to the Room.

Mr. Sciamè noted that, while there had been an evaluation of the AL the year before, the COO had never been evaluated despite efforts to do so. He further noted that the AL and COO had not been evaluated this year, and that the Board had not evaluated the ED. Mr. Nesbitt noted that the Board needed to focus on the search for a new ED, and not waste time evaluating the outgoing one. Mr. Sciamè reiterated that the Board needed June evaluations from the ED regarding the leadership team.

Ms. Mondesir noted her disappointment at the results of the internal evaluations and urged the use of the findings to guide the search for the new ED.

Upon a motion by Mr. Charriez, seconded by Mr. Rivera, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 9:15 p.m.