

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

Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 21, 2013

Board Members present: Joseph Sciame, Patricia Bramwell, Cecelia M. Russo, Marlene Mondesir, Leticia Theodore Green and Kevin Nesbitt

School Personnel present: Josh Morales, Karen Jones, Kashani Stokley, Valerie Moniz, and Vicky D'Anjou-Pomerluau

Board members Excused: Angel Charriez, Victor Rivera

Began meeting at 6:05 pm w/o a quorum (A quorum was later established)

*Welcomed by Chair Joseph Sciame

*10/17 minutes reviewed but not voted upon:

Per Karen Jones-correction to minutes- Josh doesn't dictate Professional Development wkps, she does. Marlana, who took minutes at last meeting, was asked to make the change. No vote as no quorum.

- Chair Sciame and Josh Morales reported on the visit to the school premises by Coleen Ceriello of the Diocesan Realty Office with an additional rep

Present were- Joe Sciame, Josh Morales and items discussed and/or reviewed included:

- 1) Use of facility on weekends for religious instruction. This is the first year the Parish of St. John the Baptist is asking for such use.
- 2) Use of fifth floor and, therefore, use of elevator for some of their RCIA teachers are in need.
- 3) Chairman reminded us that Board Member Victor Rivera had a problem w/ payment of the parish for utilities, but this was never resolved. Diocesan officials contend that there is to be no charge for use.

4) Pat Bramwell had asked questions which were never answered by Coleen according to Kashani Stokley.

5) Cecelia Russo had asked at the last meeting of the Board that the teachers of religious Ed have background checks. No definitive answer.

At 6:17 pm Kevin Nesbitt arrived- Board quorum was established.

- School Update- Josh Morales - 2 teachers are gone - long term using subs from list; lost 6th grade teacher the Friday before. Target enrollment was 460/had 450, but as of this day's meeting he number is 446.
- A charter school in the area that was unionized - turned in their charter and closed. BSNBCS looking to get some of these teachers and students.
- Progress report gives BSNBCS a "C," not as high as the school could/should have been.
- Josh related that there was discussion not to go to 7th grade next year.
- Pat asked a revision of dashboard in that we see a comparison to the previous month.
- Marlene Mondesir - discussion of IOWA scores on dashboard - she as a parent is not really receiving much information regarding her child. Karen Jones said the child didn't get info because the 2 teachers did not do the most thorough job of getting the information out to the parents.
- Kevin Nesbitt asked Karen Jones about the overall running record of teachers, but Ms. Jones said, "...some teachers didn't do their job."
- Consensus by the Board - there is a lot of work to do in basically 30 days to shape-up, or some teachers will be fired and let go. All concurred that the school must maintain the highest level of teacher preparation and effectiveness for students.
- Chair asked Karen Jones how she, as AL, rated those who were teaching in the school now. She stated it was an ongoing process and she believes she must support the teachers as a majority of them are teaching less than 5 years. She is still looking for a substitute Math teacher.
- Karen & Val spoke in length of behavioral problems of the students
Karen has had conferences w/ 5th & 6th grade parents but still concerns.

Leticia arrived around 7pm. Now that all but 2 Board members were present, a quorum was officially established.

A consultant from Singapore Math conducted a ½ day PD for all; impressed w/ K, 1, 2, 3., and has volunteered as a resource also.

- Joe advised that the teachers should be told that the Board members want to see far more improvement in terms of scores, etc., despite the fact that the School had done okay as compared to the city wide effort. EXD Morales said that what is needed is to do more to see "true growth."
- The Lead Learning Coaches should be role models for the other teachers.
- EXD, in the course of his discourse, advised the Board members that after next year, 2014-15, he will be leaving his current post, and willing to continue serving in some advisory capacity. His role now will be to commence that process post the holidays of 2013.

Financial Report -It was noted that BSNBCS must pay EXD Josh Morales as quickly as it is financially feasible. He responded he has been caught up w/ payment to the Parish, etc., but he stated that the Board members must insist for payment to Mr. Morales, and the Treasurer Angel Charriez must handle this in terms of advising the Board where the funds will come from and when.

Mrs. Russo motioned to adjourn the Board meeting at 7:58pm; Pat Bramwell seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

The Board then went into Executive Session at 7:59pm.

Next meeting - December 19, 5 Pm at the School as plans were being prepared for a social event for staff and Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Cecelia M. Russo
For Board Secretary Victor Morales