

Minutes  
Bedford Stuyvesant New Beginnings Charter School  
Board meeting of September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

1. Call to order 6:10
  2. Review & approval of minutes.
    - a. June 18<sup>th</sup>. Proposed (PB) Seconded (AC) 6:14
- 6:14 Kevin Nesbit joins.
3. Update on School Status 6:15 Suggested memorandum of upcoming changes has been tabled. Tour was taken by JS. Kids seem happy, school seemed busy. We need to set straight the organizational structure, moving forward.
- 6:17 JS donates framed pictures initially owned by St. John's VP appointed in 1961.
- a. 6:18 Interim Executive Director Report and Update.

Many challenges, but good, smooth start. Need to solidify supplemental programs (after school, parent organization). Lots of addition to 4-5 space. Working on block schedule which provides more time to ELA and math. Additional Computer lab time has been scheduled. 4 teachers assigned to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. KJ coaches them on practice, extra support for project-based learning. Some new teachers had to a small extent challenges in terms of discipline. WBT is used to manage classrooms.

Resources are a major challenge. Many sped were decertified. Many moved from 20-60 to 0-20, which led to a 40k budget gap.

Adjustments: more enrollment, increase in Title 1, additional grants (200k). In the future, need to look for those dual-certified teachers, right now they are mostly in K. Will also petition for extra funding for our autistic kids.

6:29 CR Suggests looking into "rewards" from DOE for academic progress in SpEd students leading to declassification.

6:33 (JM) Info on "pitching for an autistic kid program": It has been done before. (KJ) Possibly starting a classroom, as there is a possibility of 8 currently enrolled kids on autistic spectrum.

6:39 We need to fundraise.

6:41 The new Board of trustee organizational chart is presented. AC motions and KN seconds to discuss the OC. PB requests the role description for the positions on the OC. JM agrees to provide this. JS motions to adopt OC. Adopted in unison with understanding that changes will occur if required.
  - b. 6:59 Academic Leader's Report.

KJ explains the changes in teaching staff. A new art teacher was hired. A second grade associate replaced a 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher. She presents an 11 minutes video to show classroom procedures.
- 7:17 Michael Nieves joins.
- JS asks about how all new staff comes together. Asks about transition between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade. KJ They are transitioning with varying

success. The support team has been very present. KJ has observed the teachers and provided written feedback. Feedback has been well received and implemented.

7:21 KJ shows a video of Ms. Lee.

c. 7:27 Support Services Report

VM presents her work with the support services team. Making sure we see students at many different levels. Ms. Weeks was adopted as a member of support services, as a family outreach person. One of the team's greatest strength is the smooth team work. MN asks what the team does. VM Explains discipline, culture, meeting students needs on emotional, behavioral and academic level. Allows to avoid overlapping of services.

MS asks if teachers use same criteria for the behavior thermometer.

KJ says a standardization needs to occur, and this will be addressed in PD this month.

MN has 2 concerns: 1- retention (parents may be annoyed for having too much "tracking"); 2- no matter how we do our PD, there will always be a teacher trying to get troublesome students from yellow to red easily. JM assures these concerns are fully considered. KJ provides examples of how children are supported individually so that they are not "lost".

7:46 Parent Organization update. 1<sup>st</sup> meeting on Sept 5<sup>th</sup>. Decent turnout. Mrs. Roberts gave her spiel, does not feel so positive about the PO because of volunteer dropping-out. Stressed the importance of commitment, but very little committed to positions. Mrs. Roberts proposed changes in PO structure.

KS reports from meeting with the PO Pres. It is not so much the parents, they are always there. It is the people in the PO (besides Mrs. Roberts). VM explains that there should be committee chairs who organize projects that passionate them.

About handbook: CR observes that the handbook should not be printed in 300 copies and put on website until fully reviewed.

JS suggests that the PO be worked on for the next month.

JM suggests we address **PO** in November.

JM suggests that the Handbook be revisited in midyear to be reviewed and agreed on at that point for the next year. The board agrees.

JS suggests that something that is in the **handbook** and is not being implemented should be removed.

JS asks for the minutes to reflect that **promotion policy** will be reviewed.

d. 8:17 Operations report

KS is good.

MN is concerned by heat in the winter time. Will teachers play with the AC/Heating unit? Will the back-up really be used as a back-up? JS

assures that teachers can't play with it. KS: Teachers do not have control, KS monitors outdoors temperature and works with Philippe to control the units accordingly remotely. JM has requested 4 seasonal models to inform unit usage. Timers and thermostat can be used.

8:23 JS Motions that the Academic Leader be renewed 2012-13, LT Seconds AC Seconds.

8:27 KJ is renewed for academic year 2012-13.

8:29 KN and LT Leave.

8:30 LT observes that Josh has an amazing team.

8:31 MN There is no rush to discuss evaluation process for leadership. Perhaps we need to bring in an HR person who will inform us of the best way of doing things.

8:35 Mrs. Jones leaves.

On evaluation Processes: Needs to settle on a procedure.

8:53 MN if we get parents to understand the importance of filling out surveys, it is an opportunity to educate the parents on how properly filling out surveys

AC observes that the board will inform Josh of any modification that needs to be done to the Dashboard.

AC motions to adjourn. CR seconds.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky D'Anjou-Pomerleau  
For the Board Secretary