

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

Meeting of May 17, 2013

Members Present: Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Cecelia Russo; Angel Charriez; Marlina Mondesir.

Members Absent: Mike Nieves; Kevin Nesbitt (excused) and Leticia Theodore-Green;

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

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:00 pm.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Mr. Charriez, the minutes of the April 2, 2013 meeting were adopted, with all necessary changes, by a vote of 6 - 0.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Mondesir, the minutes of the April 18, 2013 meeting were adopted, with all necessary changes, by a vote of 5 - 0-1 (Mr. Rivera abstaining).

Ms. Jones provided the Academic Leader's Report to the Board. Ms. Jones advised that teachers had been observed with follow up by her, and noted that Professional Development for teachers was scheduled for every 3rd Wednesday of the month. Mr. Rivera asked Ms. Jones for her assessment of the teaching staff and Ms. Jones reported that there had been significant progress towards creating a professional learning community. She noted that she was satisfied with the vast majority of the teachers.

Mr. Morales advised that Mr. Stokley and Ms. Moniz had already done evaluations of their staff and that he was evaluating himself, Mr. Stokley and Ms. Moniz.

Ms. Russo asked if the results of the State exams would not be available until Summer again and Ms. Jones advised that this was her present understanding.

Ms. Moniz reported to the Board about support services and noted that there were presently 9 students with IEPs, but that they would soon be reviewing 14 more Ms. Moniz noted that the rate of suspensions had peaked recently and she was looking into the possible causes, but noted that there was a small group of recidivist students accounting for a large number of the suspensions.

Ms. Russo asked about the challenges of the transition to Middle School and Ms. Moniz that preparations were being made to help present 3rd - 5th graders with that transition. Mr. Morales reminded the Board that the School would have its upper academy/middle school go from 4th grade through 8th grade.

Mr. Stokley reported that the School had a higher rate of withdrawals during this academic year than normal due to relocations caused by Hurricane Sandy and domestic violence issues. Mr. Stokley advised that the School's use of the Common Application was helping grow its applicant and waiting lists.

Mr. Rivera asked about the number of retentions shown and asked if parents were already aware of this. Mr. Stokley and Ms. Jones advised that parents were not only aware, but had signed documents acknowledging their understanding that their children were going to be retained. Ms. Jones advised the Board that the higher number of retentions for 2nd grade students relative to other grades was not reflective of the performance of the teachers.

Ms. Jones noted that the building would be closed for the first two weeks of July to allow work to be performed.

Mr. Morales reviewed School attendance levels with the Board and Ms. Moniz noted that recent attendance had gone down (particularly in grades K-3). Mr. Sciame asked for possible reasons why the rate was higher in the lower grades and Ms. Moniz note that the younger children were particularly susceptible to illness. Mr. Stokley further noted that students with older siblings in DOE schools were also subject to being taken out of School when vacations were noted on the DOE calendar, which does not always coincide with the School's calendar. The Board discussed disciplinary issues.

The Board discussed the need for emergency lockdown and safety procedures in light of recent events and the general volatility of the neighborhood. Mr. Morales advised that he would be speaking with a security consultant with respect to those plans.

Mr. Rivera advised the Board of the need for fundraising by the Board to close operational funding gaps. Mr. Morales noted that he would look to schedule School fundraising events for the coming year.

Mr. Morales requested that the Board provide him with topics for the upcoming Board retreat. Mr. Sciame noted that a discussion of How to Increase Parent Involvement should be one topic. Mr. Rivera noted that a debriefing by School leadership as to what went right and wrong this past year might be constructive. Mr. Rivera again noted that Board Fundraising should be a topic for the retreat.

Ms. Jones, Mr. Stokley and Ms. Moniz departed.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Charriez and seconded by Ms. Bramwell, Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Theodore - Green were re-elected to three year terms on the Board, commencing on July 1, 2013, by a unanimous vote.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Mr. Charriez, Ms. Mondesir was elected to a full three year term on the Board, commencing on July 1, 2013, by a vote of 5-0-1 (Ms. Mondesir abstaining).

The Board set July 26, 2013 as the date for the annual Board Retreat, to be held on the campus of St. John's University. Mr. Morales again requested topics for discussion at the Retreat and the Board noted four to consider: (1) Board fundraising, (2) a review of the School's mission, (3) Outreach and Marketing of the School and (4) a discussion of what went right and wrong in 2012/13.

Upon a motion by Mr. Rivera, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 8:31 p.m.