

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

Meeting of April 23, 2010

**Members Present:** Joseph Sciame; Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Angel Charriez; Kevin Nesbitt; Thomas Alwood; Michael Nieves; Leticia Theodore.

**Members Absent:** Cecelia Russo, Mike Gaffney.

**Also Present:** Josh Morales (Consultant to Board); Bianca Velez (Assistant to Mr. Morales); Joseph Martucci (Advisor to the Board).

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 5:10 pm.

Mr. Sciame and Mr. Morales advised the Board of their meeting with the Diocese regarding the lease issues. In preparation for the meeting, they spoke with Mr. Rivera to discuss a strategy if the Diocese pushed on issues that the Board was unwilling to yield on. Mr. Sciame and Mr. Morales advised that there was no question that the School would receive a lease, but the Diocese was skeptical of its own ability to provide funds to make capital improvements to the building because of financial difficulties. Mr. Morales advised that Two Trees and Civic Builders were willing to help with capital improvements be either leveraging contacts with labor and contractors to sharply reduce the cost of the work or by entering into a direct lease with the Diocese and building out the space, respectively.

Mr. Nieves asked what our options were and Mr. Morales advised that we could either do the capital construction ourselves or get Civic Builders to do the work. Mr. Charriez asked if any work had been done at the site since the last walk-through in 2009 and was advised that the Diocese had done no work on the site because of its belief that the Board would retain a management company that would undertake to do the work at its own cost.



Mr. Sciame noted that the roof needs repairs, the furnace has issues, and that there were problems with the electrical, the windows and the gym.

Mr. Morales noted that the Facilities and Operations committees should get together and plan a possible campaign to obtain funds to do target repairs. Mr. Nieves suggested that the Board prepare a detailed analysis of the needs for capital improvements to the Building so that prospective donors or agencies could look at it. Mr. Sciame advised that the executive summary of the report prepared by the Diocese could suffice.

Ms. Theodore asked what 2 Trees' goal was in helping the Board. Mr. Morales advised that the principals were proponents of education and charter schools. Mr. Alwood then asked if Civic Builders would allow Board input on the improvements to the Building and Mr. Morales advised that some would be allowed.

Mr. Sciame then advised the Board that both the Education and Executive Committees had voted to go forward with an offer to Dr. Karen Jones to be the Academic Leader for the School and suggested that Dr. Jones be hired as a consultant for the months of May and June and then convert to Academic Leader as of July 1, 2010. Mr. Nesbitt asked what the difference in compensation would be between the two titles and Mr. Sciame advised that Dr. Jones would be working about 15-20 hours a week to help with hiring until she went on full-time. Accordingly, after motion duly made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board voted to make an offer of employment to Dr. Jones for the position of Academic Leader at a salary of \$125,000 by a vote of 7-0-1 (Mr. Nieves abstaining).

Mr. Sciame then asked about a process for informing applicants that the position had been filled. Mr. Nieves suggested that a form letter be prepared for all applicants for the Education Committee to send.

Mr. Morales then advised the Board that, after reviewing the misdirected applications discussed at the last meeting, the following timely applications had been received for each grade: K: 102 applications; 1: 55 applications; 2: 69 applications; 3: 90 applications. Accordingly, the School was oversubscribed for each grade and lotteries would have to be held in each grade. Mr. Morales advised that the lottery would take place on April 27 at 6:30 at the SJB Parish Hall. Mr. Nesbitt and Ms. Russo will attend the Lottery on behalf of the Board. Mr. Morales advised that Christina Grant from the NYC DOE would attend the lottery and would participate by pulling numbers.

Mr. Morales then advised the Board of the number of applications that had been received through the website or other sources for positions as teachers, deans, operational and administrative personnel, and financial and business personnel. He further advised that Dr. Jones will start sifting through the teacher applications with the help of Ms. Park and Mr. Morales to make recommendations to respective subcommittees.

Mr. Charriez asked about the hiring of Operations personnel and Mr. Morales advised that preparations for July 1 were paramount. Mr. Morales did indicate that the Board should consider

bringing Raj Thakkar on soon.

Mr. Sciame asked Mr. Martucci what he wished to do as a consultant. Mr. Martucci advised that he thought that he could help in the screening and interviewing of teachers. Mr. Sciame then asked Mr. Martucci to be available at the open house for teachers on May 8.

Mr. Charriez asked if Mr. Nieves, who had been voted in as Treasurer in absentia, was willing to still serve in that position. Mr. Nieves advised that he did.

The Board then discussed the composition of the permanent committees, given the recent departures from the Board. After discussion, the following committee assignments were approved.

<u>Executive</u>	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Engagement</u>	<u>Ops/Facilities</u>	<u>Development</u>
J. Sciame	M. Nieves	C. Russo	K. Nesbitt	A. Charriez	M. Nieves
P. Bramwell	A. Charriez	K. Nesbitt	V. Rivera	J. Sciame	P. Bramwell
V. Rivera	M. Gaffney	T. Alwood	P. Bramwell	T. Alwood	J. Sciame
C. Russo			L. Theodore		L. Theodore
A. Charriez					

Mr. Sciame advised the Board that he was receiving a number of calls from vendors regarding clothing/uniforms and food. Mr. Morales advised that we should determine what school colors would be, but not to worry about the timeline for the moment.

Mr. Sciame asked about the parent board member and when the Board should look for him/her. Mr. Morales said we should not consider it until September 2010.

The Board then discussed again the need for capital improvements and how to best approach

