

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

Meeting of May19, 2011

Members Present: Patricia Bramwell; Victor Rivera Jr.; Mike Nieves; Angel Charriez; Thomas Alwood; Kevin Nesbitt; Leticia Theodore-Green.

Members Absent: Joseph Sciame; Cecelia Russo;

Also Present: Karen Jones (CAO); Joshua Morales (COO); Kashani Stokeley (Dir., Ops.)

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 6:03 pm.

Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Rivera and seconded by Mr. Charriez, the minutes of the April meeting were adopted with all necessary corrections by a vote of 5 - 0, with Mr. Nieves and Mr. Alwood not present.

The Board discussed with Ms. Jones and Mr. Stokeley the recently completed State exams and preparations for the annual visit of the Department of Education ("DOE") to inspect the School. Ms. Bramwell asked if there would be a problem with the School's inability to comply with the Latin and Community Service requirements spelled out in the School's charter application. Ms. Jones stated that there would not be a problem, and that the Community Service issue would be addressed after the DOE visit. Mr. Morales spoke with the Board about the DOE's visit and what would be required of the Board during the visit.

Mr. Nieves arrived.

Ms. Bramwell asked about the Library and was advised by Ms. Jones that the School had already received a number of books and that Mr. Stokeley was preparing to order more.

Mr. Morales advised the Board of the financial situation of the School and noted that he estimated that the School would finish with a \$50,000 surplus for the year. He cautioned that a decision had to be made regarding the boiler and heating issues for the School.

Mr. Alwood arrived.

Mr. Nieves advised the Board of the possibilities with respect to the boiler and noted that it would cost \$80,000 - \$90,000 to make the present boiler more efficient, a realistic alternative to spending \$150,000 to replace the boiler. Mr. Nieves asked if there would be a Summer program that could potentially interfere with boiler and other work, but Mr. Morales indicated that the School would not have a Summer program this year.

Mr. Morales noted that evaluations for teachers and instructional aides would be accomplished in the next couple of weeks and that the School needed to hire a Latin teacher and Media Specialist for the upcoming academic year.

Mr. Morales next advised the Board that the statistics for the incoming class showed an increase of SPED students from its present 20% of the School population to an estimated 40% - 50%. The Board then discussed possible causes for such an increase in the SPED population. Ms. Jones noted that the 120 parents had signed up for a Summer bridge program that would help some. Mr. Rivera asked what the School would need to do regarding personnel to handle such a large influx. Mr. Morales noted that the School would need to hire an additional 2 SPED teachers, an additional Speech therapist and retain Mr. Soriano, who has been working well with the students in his present capacity. Mr. Nesbitt noted that the increase would lead to additional funds which could be used to offset the cost of the additional hires.

Ms. Jones noted that the present enrollment was 181 students, and that there was now an overflow waitlist for each year coming out of the lottery. Mr. Stokeley noted that the School was making a second push to reach out to waitlisted students. Mr. Morales noted that a nearby charter school was spending \$150,000 for recruitment and that there was a lot of overlap in the populations. Members of the Parent Organization ("PO") attending the meeting advised that they had received calls from rival schools as late as November 2010 to try and get them to switch out of the School and register at a rival. Mr. Morales noted that the School would have an August "Meet Your Teacher" parent orientation and would attempt to have one before the present school year was concluded.

The Board next discussed the staff and was advised by Ms. Jones that two instructors were likely interviewing to leave the School, but all had indicated that they wished to return. Ms. Jones noted that she was comfortable with the staff, but that two instructors possibly needed to be let go. Ms. Bramwell noted that the EdCom likely needed to meet by phone before the next meeting.

The Board quickly discussed possibilities for developmental outreach and Ms. Theodore noted that she had spoken with someone from Con Ed which was promising.

Ms. Bramwell introduced two members of the PO, who updated the Board on their efforts to organize over the academic year. They noted events that they had performed, including raising funds for the School. The PO was advised that the Outreach Committee would be their point of contact and that the Committee would soon set up a meeting to discuss their issues and concerns.

The Board noted that the next meeting was scheduled for June 23, at which time it would discuss the strategic plan for the next academic year, as well as updates on the School budget and the boiler.

On a motion by Mr. Nesbitt, seconded by Mr. Charriez, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

