

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

Meeting of October 15, 2010

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

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Karen Jones (Academic Leader); Joshua Morales (COO), Kashani Stokely (Dir., Ops.)

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A quorum being present, the Meeting commenced at 10:30 pm.

Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Theodore, the minutes of the September 17 meeting were adopted with all necessary corrections by a vote of 7 - 0 - 1, with Mr. Rivera abstaining and Mr. Nieves not present.

Ms. Jones advised the Board about school academic operations, noting that 6 staff members had to be replaced after 1 resigned, 2 were let go and 3 others were proving not capable of working in the required environment. Ms. Jones noted there had been 13 incidents resulting in suspensions thus far. Ms. Jones noted that she had been building relationships with the parents of students to remind them of what was expected in terms of behavior in school and in transport to the school. Ms. Russo asked about reporting the suspensions to the State and was advised that all reports had been made. Ms. Jones noted that the rate of suspensions had declined significantly in recent weeks. Mr. Rivera asked about a student who had been suspended twice and was advised that the parents were very involved in resolving the issue. Mr. Morales noted that the lack of a bridge program to help set expectations likely added to early discipline issues.

Ms. Jones noted that school enrollment was 184, which was 16 short of our projected enrollment. Mr. Nesbitt asked about how the shortfall was being addressed and was told that flyers were

being handed out in places where new students, primarily for the Kindergarten classes, could be recruited. Mr. Alwood asked about budget implications and Mr. Morales stated that there would be severe implications if the shortfall was not addressed. Mr. Morales noted that school would be out in the community over the next three weeks looking for possible new students.

Mr. Sciame asked when the first Parents' Night would be and was advised that it would be October 21 at 6:00 pm. Ms. Russo advised that she was aware of a psychologist who could address parents at any such meeting as a possible guest speaker. Ms. Jones stated that she was interested in setting something up.

Mr. Nieves arrived.

Mr. Morales then advised the Board about school operations and noted that the school had received initial funds and it was "over the hump" financially. He noted that an issue with the boiler needed to be addressed. Mr. Nieves then advised the Board that there was a possibility that the boiler would need to be replaced sooner rather than later and, given availability of funds, both short- and long-term resolutions should be discussed. Mr. Nieves first noted that, if the boiler failed when started, a mobile unit would have to be rented for the winter at an approximate cost of \$50,000 or a new boiler would have to be purchased and installed at an approximate cost of \$250,000. The plant where the boiler was located, however, is a shared facility with the adjoining apartment building and Mr. Nieves noted that he would be reluctant to spend funds on the boiler without a contribution from the adjoining building. As an alternative to a new boiler, Mr. Nieves noted that the Board could consider a forced air duct system that would provide heat and cold and could be installed on the roof and down the exterior of the building to designated area of the School. The cost would be higher than a new boiler but would significantly reduce energy costs and pay for itself over time.

Mr. Nieves also noted that there were also issues with respect to the lack of ventilation in bathrooms, the elevator and the kitchen.

Mr. Nieves and Mr. Morales then discussed the possibility of available grants from organizations to cover the cost of these possible improvements.

After discussion by the Board, Mr. Alwood made a motion, seconded by Mr. Rivera, to authorize Mr. Morales to engage an engineer at a cost of \$3,000 to study the feasibility and cost of installing an HVAC system for the school. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Rivera then made a motion, seconded by Ms. Bramwell, to authorize Mr. Morales to engage a company to install a mobile heating unit for the school if the boiler failed its test. The motion also carried unanimously.

Mr. Morales then noted that the school was operating in the black and that his biggest challenge thus far was dealing with new State mandates on necessary paperwork to draw funds.

Mr. Sciame then asked if Joe Martucci had been paid. Mr. Morales advised that he had not been paid and the Board discussed paying Mr. Martucci some of his requested invoice amount. Mr. Sciame then asked if Mr. Morales had been paid for his time as a consultant and Mr. Morales advised that he had not, but would be submitting his expenses soon.

Mr. Stokely then advised the Board about a typical day in the School, including how staff was involved in getting students to and from buses. He noted that there were 6 ELL students and that 18 students were missing their meal applications. Mr. Rivera asked if the School's enrollment metrics were in line with the community's and Mr. Morales responded affirmatively.

Mr. Morales advised that the after-school program was going smoothly, but noted that the lack of a piano had caused a problem. Ms. Jones asked the Board to each contribute an electronic keyboard at a cost of \$100 - \$150 to help the after-school music program, noting that 14 kids were interested and were paying for lessons, but had to share one keyboard.

The Board discussed and rescheduled the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the school to November 19 and directed that invitations go out by the next week. Ms. Jones agreed to create an invitation to include in a written solicitation that would be followed by an e-mail and phone calls. Mr. Rivera noted that an invitation should go out to Errol Louis, who was the only member of the media who had RSVP'd to attend the cancelled ceremony.

The Board then discussed the prospective logo and Ms. Theodore agreed to go back to the logo artist to make the changes requested by the Board.

Ms. Jones noted that Congressman Towns' representative gave her a favorable impression after their walk-through.

Mr. Morales asked for the Board to approve the selection of Fruchter Rosen as the School's auditor. On a motion made by Ms. Bramwell and seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board voted unanimously to grant such authorization, subject to the final approval of the School's Treasurer.

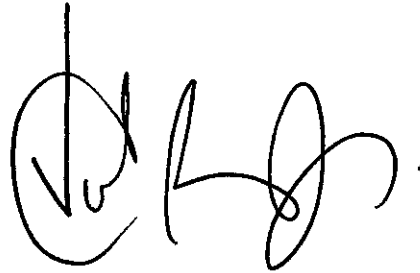
Ms. Bramwell asked if business cards could be created for the staff and the Board and Mr. Nieves noted that, due to DOE policy, all members of the School Staff and Board should have ID cards to present to get access to the premises. Mr. Morales asked if the Board wanted a closed door policy, but Ms. Russo responded that if dignitaries or other important people arrived, they could be walked through depending on available resources. If none are available, then appointments should be made.

Ms. Theodore asked about the Spring Fund Raiser, noting that a specific goal was easier to sell. Ms. Jones noted that the goal could be to raise \$40 - \$50,000 for the library. Mr. Morales advised that he thought a more prioritized need was the roof, followed by support for the after-school programs. Mr. Nesbitt asked about how the Engagement and Development Committees would be involved, noting that Engagement likely should be in charge of picking the location, the

date and the type of function. Mr. Morales noted that the location would be critical because it would set the audience, i.e., a function at the school would attract one type of audience while one at another location would attract a different crowd. Ms. Theodore noted that people would want to see the building so an in-School event was better.

Mr. Sciame noted that the next meeting of the Board would be on November 19, after the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

On a motion by Mr. Alwood, seconded by Ms. Russo, the Board unanimously voted to recess the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'D' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.