



Thursday, November 17, 2022 @6:09 p.m.  
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 857 3049 8500  
Passcode: AYRG@7

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of October minutes
3. Lavinia School Report
4. Vote to Approve District School Safety Plan
5. Vote on Resolution to Open Meetings Law
6. Board Committee Reports
7. Public Comments
8. Executive Session
9. Adjournment

## Trustees Present

Richard Bayles
Gretchen Pusch
Justin Toliver
Peter Low
Amanda Low
Jonathan Stearns
Reby Gulcan
Susan Reid

### Storefront Academy Staff:

Ms. Alison Curry, Interim CEO  
Mr. Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance  
Ms. Natalia Perez, Secretary to the Board  
Ms. Nidia Evangelista, Director of Advancement  
Ms. Carol Singletary, South Bronx Campus Principal  
Ms. Yoselyn Fernandez, South Bronx Assistant Principal  
Ms. Taleema Chesney, Harlem Campus Principal  
Ms. Amia Fisher, Dean of Harlem  
Ms. Marie Lucas, Director of Compliance/HR  
Mr. Matthew Tiwari  
Mr. Lou \_\_, Lincoln-Beretta  
Mr. William Loskosch, Lavinia Group  
Katherine Pimentel, parent  
Isis Roman, teacher  
Lorena Rodriguez, Harlem Campus Office Manager  
Mishalene Thomas, parent  
DeniLee Peroza, parent  
Ms. Escobar, teacher

Brittany James, parent  
Rubilia Gonzalez, parent  
Yordani Valdez, parent  
Tikabda Washington, parent  
Jessica Weatherspoon, parent  
Katherine Vasquez, teacher

## **1. Call to Order**

- Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

## **2. Adoption of Minutes**

- Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the previous board meeting. A motion to adopt the minutes was made.
- There was a discussion regarding a potential revision to a portion of the minutes regarding the Audit Committee, which would be addressed via email at a later time.
- There was a discussion regarding the public meeting laws previously discussed, and the conclusion was that the majority of the board members must be present, in person, for a meeting to be valid.
- With no further discussion, or any objections or abstentions, the minutes were accepted.

## **3. Lavinia School Report**

- Math story problems were being implemented in all classrooms of both campuses in order to enhance mathematical rationalization and improve learning.
- Conceptual math understanding has helped students better internalize mathematical issues and has been very successful, such as when learning and teaching fractions.
- The concepts utilized in teaching mathematics curriculum might be utilized in the music classes and will be explored.
- Teachers are reacting well to, and internalizing, the new teaching concepts after the latest professional development session. This allows them to better explain concepts and ideas to students
- ELA goals have not been quite reached. However, despite some students not passing tests, they have progressed in their reading levels and abilities, up to almost passing the tests, which should be considered success given

the current progression and expected upcoming results.

- Understanding how children learn how to read has been paramount in promoting teaching and learning comprehension, in order to push the abilities to deal with the ideas in the text being analyzed.

- Assisting with reading comprehension will assist students with comprehend other aspects of school and life, therefore it is paramount in their education.

- Lavinia Group provides more direct support to teachers who need assistance with the Lavinia Group curriculum, as well as help refining their lesson plans.

- Lavinia Group representatives have also helped the Academy in preparing for the upcoming SUNY visits and inspections.

#### **4. Lincoln-Beretta Report**

- There are 372 potential new enrollments for the Academy (221 for South Bronx Campus and 151 for Harlem Campus).

- Given that advertisement techniques have been implemented for a year and are being analyzed, advertisement will be better targeted for the appropriate demographics, notwithstanding whether an individual follows an Academy-related social media page.

- Advertisement expenditure is lower for November and December for strategic purposes, in order to save the ad expenditure funds during months of low recruitment, and utilize them in January, which is a better month for the Academy.

- It is possible to track who is being contacted, and how, from the potential new recruits, which could inform on future campaigns.

- Conversion rate for the year can be calculated, and will be in the upcoming days and presented to the Board.

#### **5. Committee Reports**

## **Academic Committee**

- The is an ongoing need for teachers.
- In order to establish individual learning plans properly, second teachers need to be in the classroom. If available, two additional teachers would rove between certain grades and assist in that process.
  - Salary and incentives need to be assessed in order to attract and retain more and better teachers.
- The staff is looking into sponsored programs where teachers can earn their higher education degrees, perhaps sponsored and free of charge for the teachers. One teacher seems to have achieved this on their own, and the Board would like to see if this can be replicated.
- The board discussed whether to implement a policy where teachers and personnel who are absent from work without an excuse will not be paid their salary for such day.
- The Academy has a good relationship with Sunshine Preschool, which should enhance recruitment for the Academy.
- Cooperation between the Julliard Academy has begun. The Storefront Academy has received and begun implementing the Julliard curriculum and materials. In upcoming days, teachers from each Academy will watch the other's classes in order to further improve teaching and learning methods.

## **Governance Committee**

- Bylaws state that Board members should be removed after not attending and participating in their duties.
  - Ms. Acey has not responded to messages or attended meetings for various months.
- Ms. Stearns moved to remove Ms. Acey from the Board, due to nonparticipation, in accordance with the bylaws, for a replacement to be sought

at the proper elections time. The motion was seconded. With no further discussion, or any objections or abstentions, the motion was approved.

### **Development Committee**

- There are donations incoming in upcoming weeks.
- Events in December are being planned and/or finalized.
- Donations were received that will allow for Boston Market meals to be awarded to deserving people in need.
- Working with the New York Giants football team for a personal presence and promotion.
- A clothing drive was ongoing in order to help a family in need.
- Operation Warm, which gives winter clothing and shoes was being finalized for implementation.

### **Finance Committee**

- There had been a meeting in order to prepare for the meeting with SUNY, which went well, and the Academy is one step closer from readiness for the meeting.
- Enrollment is down by 25%. Reserves will carry the Academy the rest of the year.
- The Academy sought for a new enrollment company, SCHOLA, and they would guarantee 20 annual enrollments per campus; this would require at least a one-year contract, and it would cost approximately \$3,500 monthly per campus. If there was a shortfall, they would reimburse a certain amount per student.
- Several expenditures had been approved by the Finance Committee and were brought to the Board for their awareness:

- o SCHOLA hiring
- o Video production to recruit displaced immigrants, tailored to certain demographics so they are aware of the services offered by the Academy
- o New lunch/breakroom closer and better appointed for teachers and staff, in order to enhance morale and readiness and help with the exhaustion of being a teacher, especially given the shortage

### **Harlem Principal Report**

- This campus still has a severe teacher shortage. Teachers are doing great work with the personnel they have, and systems have been implemented to work around those issues.
- The principal's main plan involves getting the students excited about learning and coming to school, implementing incentives and reward programs, and utilizing games to motivate and incentivize participation and enhance morale.
- Teachers have engaged in various roles outside of their primary contracted roles in order to maintain the best learning environment possible.

### **Bronx Principal Report**

- Intervention teachers, who are not normally in classrooms, are now teaching due to the staffing shortage.
- Students identified as Title I cannot be taken care of as needed because of the personnel shortage.
- Although the campus is in the poorest district in the country, the mission is to ensure students receive the best and teachers have the tools, equipment, and support they need.

### **CEO Report**



- The top priorities were to prepare the Academy for the SUNY visit, and providing teachers, staff, and students with everything they need to succeed.

## **6. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.