



Storefront Academy Charter School

May Board Meeting

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 6:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Trustees: Richard Bayles, Reby Gulcan, Peter Low, Amanda Low, Gretchen Pusch.

Staff: Taleema Chesney, Alison Curry, Brian Class, Paola Escobosa, Nidia Evangelista, Julisa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Amia Fisher, Gloria Hernandez, Nicole Garcia, Debbie Khelewan, Marie Lucas, Stephanie Reeder, Yubdeley Ricardo, Katherine Mateo, Lorena Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Isis Roman, Carol Singletary, Maria Smith, Mariame Smith, Desiree Soulet, Stalyn Tejada, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez, Stuart Wolf.

Public: Azul Blue, Andrew Hallums, Haidy Melendez, DeniLee Peroza,

1. Call to order

- Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. EST.

2. Adoption of March minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes - so moved and seconded, Mr. Bayles has some questions which he'll address later at executive session. March meeting minutes were accepted and adopted.

3. Adoption of April minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes - so moved and seconded, no questions from group. April meeting minutes were accepted and adopted.

4. Board Committee Reports - to be integrated later in the Interim ED report per Mr. Bayles.

5. Principal Reports

- a. Harlem - Taleema Chesney [principal's report](#) - 2nd annual butterfly release, all students and staff in the garden to celebrate spring and the stages of life of butterflies. F&P data shared, 3rd cycle report, not where she wants it to be, next cycle starts at the beginning of June. Fall off due to staff and scholars low attendance rates. Exact Path Skills Mastered report also a little lower than expected, less use of Exact Path, learning is not happening at the rate she wants, ordered materials to support better scholar learning. Focusing on attendance for all to enjoy and be present. Ms. Chesney highlighted a 4th grade student who has had perfect attendance and punctuality for all five years at Storefront. Ms. Chesney highlighted the first in math regional champions. Ms. Reeder spoke to this challenge and the success of her students with the right materials and

support. Ms Reeder and these three First in Math state winners are competing this Saturday again in Albany, NY. Showcased “Harlem is Anchored” frames of students embracing events and practices like Cinco DeMayo, K2 super readers, etc. “Harlem welcomes new families” event was held at the school on 4/27 with lots of activities and parent conversation. Harlem’s next enrollment event is 5/24, 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Board member spotlight - Amanda Low reading to scholars, very impactful, very engaging.

Enrollment (Lorena Rodriguez) - 15 kindergarten joining next year, 1st grade 15, 2nd grade 17, 3rd grade 22, 4th grade 26, 5th grade 17 - total 112 for SY 23-24. These reflect all paperwork filled out. Pipeline number is not available at this time, Ms. Curry will follow up on that with the Board later.

[Follow up post meeting for clarification -

Accepted: 29

K-15

1-3

2-2

3-2

4-6

5-1

Registered: 9

K-6

1-1

2-

3-1

4-1

5-

In ATS: 5 (+ 79 current enrollment) 84

K-5

1-

2-

3-

4-

5-

Total students in pipeline: 43

K-25

1-5

2-3

3-3

4-4

5-3

b. South Bronx - Carol Singletary [principal's report](#) - focusing on celebrations this time around, not as data heavy as in the past. State tests are over, the 3rd breakfast of champions was held to celebrate the hard work of all students, teachers and parents. "We welcome new families" event was held at the school, there were kids activities and good conversation with parents. Peter Low asked the reason for parents to be attracted to the school and Ms. Singletary shared that word of mouth is the main source and also the multi-language community at the school, and the all inclusive approach, student and family as a whole. She showcased the Mother's Day breakfast, thanked Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Hernandez and Ms. Desiree for their involvement to make this a successful event. Spoke about Parent Partnership, seed event. Discussed end of year assessments Spring map starts next week, cycle 4 of Fountas and Pinnell reading, ELA and Math challenges are coming up 6.3-6.5 ESL achievement test 4.17-5.26; teaching and learning students goal setting, small group and targeted practice and progress monitoring. Exact Path skills mastered (4/1-4/30), 14 days of learning due to spring break): math 418, reading 160, language arts 160. Also lower due to less use of Skills Path and adjusting the teaching/learning styles to more individualized focus, just as it is being done at Harlem. Highlighted school culture celebrating the Team - teacher/staff appreciation week, shower for one of the teachers, daily affirmations, 3 graduates from her teachers were celebrated as well. Preparing for the Student Artwork Exhibition with Ms. Franco, to be held 5/25 3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Ms. Curry shared a message from Ms. Franco with the group about how impactful art is and how excited the students are to share it.

Enrollment (Ms. Curry) South Bronx

229 families SY22/23, 55 kindergartners accepted for SY 23/24, with 83 from all the other grades for a total 312. These families must complete paperwork to enroll, after the verbal / written acceptance.

28 new families have completed paperwork, bringing our projected enrollment for SY 23/24 to 257.

239 additional students are in the pipeline to be enrolled. Ms. Curry is confident enrollment will be met per the current budget for both locations.

6. Finance (Stewart Wolf)

- a. Budget Update - \$1 million has been cut in expenses, bottom line is negative \$575,000 - \$580,000 after depreciation; before depreciation negative \$378,000, will have positive cash balance at the end; spoke with people ERC for staff retention not sure if money will come in by end of school year.
- b. Discussion/Adoption of the FPP - Mr. Bayles put forth a motion to vote on FPP, no questions or discussions were raised, vote was accepted; FPP adopted. Peter Low asked how long it will take to apply it, Ms. Curry responded that the FPP policies are in place currently, next steps are to share the FPP with staff. Stuart Wolf was highly praised for his work on the FPP.
- c. Discussion/Adoption of "Friends of" proposal to capture revenue reserved for executive session.

7. Development Report (Nidia Evangelista) - The summer boost grant for \$280,000 was granted; planning and meeting weekly for the summer program. We received a grant for a STEM program of \$4,900 to each school for teacher training; second decision (for equipment) upcoming grant opportunity between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in six weeks. Summer planning - structure and curriculum trips all covered by the grant. We'll be able to ask for grants for next year based on our plan for the program; there are some pending grants, too.

Ms. Curry provided detail for the summer enrichment program for each campus - Ms. Franco will head the South Bronx in art based curriculum and Ms. Reeder will head the Harlem program with a fun science base.

Ms. Pusch asked how many students are mandated for summer school; Ms Singeltary answered 10-15% of students are mandated to participate in the summer program.

[We have checked on the numbers; reports are attached.]

Network Overview

SACS Summer School Total (SY 22-23):**175**

SACS Grand Total Registered: **160**

SACS Available Seats: **17**

Schoolwide Mandated Percents compared current school enrollment : Harlem Campus: **42%** | Bronx Campus: **20%**

Harlem Summary:

We have a grand total of 62 students registered in the summer program

Total Registered	Mandated Total	Mandated % compared to summer school enrollment
62	34	55%

Grade	Registered	Mandated	Non Mandated	Mandated % compared to summer school enrollment
1	8	5	3	62%
2	9	7	2	78%
3	16	11	5	69%
4	15	0	15	0%
5	14	11	3	78%
Total	62	34	28	55%

Bronx Summary:

We have a grand total of 98 students in the Bronx

Total registered	Mandated Total	Mandated % compared to summer school enrollment
98	50	51%

Breakdown by grade

Grade	Registered	Mandated	Not Mandated	Mandated % compared to summer school enrollment
1	22	10	12	45%
2	17	9	7	53%
3	18	11	9	61%
4	22	9	11	40%
5	19	11	8	58%
Total	98	50	47	51%

8. Interim ED Report (Alison Curry) - Mr. Bayles asked about 4th Sector Solutions and Ms. Curry responded that 4th Sector is on a \$3,000 per month on retainer and they've provided a good procurement system to use; the certificate of occupancy for 603 Pontiac does not have permission for kids occupancy and Ms. Curry is working on changing that; actively interviewing with Marie Lucas for enrollment specialists; Ms. Curry discussed the new organizational chart/organizational restructure, approved by the Board in March, specifically to the amount of direct reports:

- Ms. Singletery will focus on academic excellence - she will develop a learning/coaching culture

among staff, and ensure the curriculum, lesson plans, teaching styles, and efficiency improve on a daily basis. She will manage Ms Fernandez, Ms Graham, and liaise with Ms. Lucas on operations.

- Operations now fall under Marie Lucas, she now has 15 direct reports. Desiree Soulet is now the Operations Manager in charge of on the ground roles such as safety, security, maintenance schedules and tasks, etc.
- Ms. Fernandez will continue as Assistant Principal, managing K, 1, 2 and specials, and the integration of SEL throughout the curriculum and school culture.
- Ms. Graham is now managing counselors, intervention, coaches, RTI, skills assessments/data gaps, and ELL.
- Ms. Tejada will manage the ELL learning and population, Ms. Guerero, and additional ELL interventionist for SY 23/24.
- Andre Kelley will maintain his presence in Harlem and will help the South Bronx with safety and maintenance.
- Security - soon NYPD paid patrol will begin and there will be one officer at Harlem and one at South Bronx.
- SUNY charter renewal has begun, Lisa Veto leading the process.
- Enrollment associates will be joining our officers of first impressions at each location to aid them in the enrollment process.
- Next Board meeting will be in person on June 15 at Harlem, this is the last Zoom meeting.

9. Public Comments - Gretchen Pusch announced a possible partnership with a church in the Bronx for nutrition, education and food growing and preparation...stay tuned for updates.

Public Board meeting adjourned at 7:13 PM.

Closed Executive Session for ED and Board began at 7:13 PM.

10. Adjournment - The executive session meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

The next Meeting is Thursday, June 15, 2023 , 6:00 - 7:00 PM EST

Minutes submitted by Maria Smith.