



Board Meeting

Thursday, Apr 20, 2023 , 6pm - 7pm EST

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Trustees: Richard Bayles, Reby Gulcan, Gretchen Pusch, Jonathan Stearns.

Staff & Guests: Latasha Brown, Tim Brown, Taleema Chesney, Alison Curry, Berniesha Coleman, Nidia Evangelista, Yoselyn Fernandez, Patricia Franco, Amia Fisher, Gloria Hernandez, Yesenia Graham, Tiffany Henry, Marie Lucas, Katherine Mateo, Nereida Morales, Shilekka Mckewn, DeniLee Peroza, Sharae Pierret, Maryleidy Pimentel, Lorena Rodriguez, Luis Rodriguez, Isis Roman, Carol Singletary, Maria Smith, Mariame Smith, Matthew Tiwary, Katherine Vasquez, Stuart Wolf, Diondra Young.

1. Call to order

- Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm EST.

2. March minutes

- To be shared post meeting, and accepted at the next meeting.

3. Board Committee Reports

- Academic committee** (Alison Curry) - restructuring the committee to expand the academic offerings particularly with excellence and enrichment beyond the current capacity of the school, do so by bringing board members on campus to engage with the school community and share their skills and passion; best time to do so would be on Wednesdays between 1pm and 3pm as this is the time for professional development for our teachers, open to other times based on availability, board members can sign up with Nidia Evangelista. Richard Bayles requested a note be sent to the board and parents regarding the level of reading material to bring for the activities to be better prepared, Ms. Curry shared that materials and activities will be created by the principals and the teachers and that a message will be sent.
- Real Estate** (Richard Bayles) - The Executive Committee and Jonathan Stearns will continue discussions about the Harlem campus next week.
- Finance** (Stuart Wolf) - enrollment has gone up but not ideal; saving more monthly but can do better, good cash position currently, can do better all around but we should be fine at the end of the year and further. Mr. Bayles discussed the importance of enrollment numbers.
 - Adopt the FPP** - Mr. Wolf proposed a delay for a month to adopt the FPP, it was agreed to move this item to the next meeting.



2. **Vote on the Forth Sector Proposal** - Mr. Bayles put forth the motion to accept/vote on the proposal to hire Forth Sector - so moved, seconded - accepted unanimously.

d. **Governance** (Jonathan Stearns) - will have an update at the next meeting.

Board Member prospects discussed by Mr. Bayles, informed that Ms. Curry is working on a package to share with potential new board members, the package of materials will include some of the SUNY presentations of South Bronx School and some of the videos; Ms. Curry suggested working with Mr. Bayles and Mr. Stearns on expanding the skillset on the board, reaching out to alumni; Mr. Stearns discussed a profiling approach he's already implementing to attract ideal candidates in legal capacity, regulatory finance, education, local involvement, community connection, and others. Gretchen Pusch volunteered to reach out to some alumni; Ms. Evangelista also talked about reaching out to 501c3 for rosters and the film director and those involved with it, as a resource.

4. Principal Reports

- a. **Harlem - Taleema Chesney** [principal's report](#) - ELA state test 2nd day ended today, focused on growth mindset to aid the scholars with learning and testing; 4th graders 2nd test, 3rd graders 1st time taking state test and no one had a meltdown, students were proud of themselves, had breakfast of champions today to motivate them, principal expressed gratitude to all educators that were involved in this success; presentation slides offered exact path data for kinder, 1st and 2nd grade, need some additional phonics learning and are working on filling that gap; presentation also showed weekly goals, mindset of the day, "I am worth it" video; field trip to Nat'l Museum of the American Indian followed by learning activity to correlate to that trip; Scholar Shine - spirit week, spin the wheel for attendance has resulted in perfect attendance. Nicole Garcia's 2nd grade class earned best of badges, math being one of them. Focus on reading improvement and focus on celebrating the Storefront Scholars.

Enrollment - Ms. Chesney and her staff are currently contacting parents.

Ms. Curry shared the following data about enrollment - 77 of 79 families currently with the school would renew; 100 students are on the lottery, 20 of them are confirmed, 80 more to go thru, only about 10 or 12 have declined; The acceptance is: kindergarten 11, 1st grade 1, 2nd grade 2, 3rd grade 1, 4th grade 5, 5th grade none; at this moment the enrollment is 97. More work will be done about enrollment, there are four events planned the first one will be on April 27, it is an event for families called "Seeds for Success" to attract enrollment, there is also a social media campaign to support this. Marie Lucas shared the good news that more families have applied on the power school student information system, those families will be called also.



- b. South Bronx - Carol Singletary [principal's report](#)** - parallel to the Harlem campus, good experience with the test, better prepared this time around, teachers and students felt that; ELA state testing ended today; upcoming Math Test is May 2 and 3; expressed gratitude to all involved with the success; presentation slides reflected the program Out “Littles” cheer on our “Bigs” where kindergarten visits 3rd grade; discussed student coaching around individualized goals setting high level strategy to focus on goal setting and achievement; State test chart showed improvement data comparing this year to last year; F&Ps meet or exceed this year; SUNY chose to spotlight them about their connection with parents; Breakfast of champions huge success for all, was a joyful event for the students and the parents who came to help; more field learning is also to come to support the curriculum.

Lavinia group update - used for all literacy, going well as adopted methodology;

Julliard update - upcoming meeting on 4/25 with Ms. Singletary and Ms. Chesney to further discuss strategy and curriculum with the music program.

5. Alison Curry, Interim ED Report

- Ms. Curry is focusing on enrollment attracting the right students for the right reasons;
- Finished listening tour enjoyed learning more about the organization from everyone on the ground;
- Working on Master values, conversion of 603 space (no occupancy certificate but still moving forward with planning), shout out to Patricia Franco and her art work's impact;
- Working on the Harlem space;
- Working on the summer learning and enrichment program to get students on grade level, secured Bloomberg philanthropies grant for this.

6. Public Comments

- Mr. Bayles reminded the group that the Executive committee meeting to discuss the topic of real estate is next week; Ms. Curry to schedule.

7. Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 7:01 EST.

The next Meeting is Thursday, May 18, 2023 , 6 p.m. - 7 p.m. EST

Minutes submitted by Maria Smith.