



Storefront Academy Charter School

June Board Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

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

Staff: Alison Curry, Carol Singletary, Tallema Chesney, Marie Lucas, Amia Fisher, Stuart Wolf, Debbie Khelewan, Robert Keogh, Stephanie Reeder, Nidia Evangelista, Katherine Vasquez, Madeley Sanchez, Desire Soulet, Julissa Fernandez, Yoselyn Fernandez, Yesenia Graham, Mariame Smith, Gloria Hernandez, Lashawn Lewis, Stalyn Tejada, Isis Roman, Maurissa Hankey

1. Call to order

- Richard Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m. EST.

2. Adoption of May minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes - May meeting minutes were accepted and approved.

3. South Bronx Campus [Principal's Report](#), Carol Singletary

- Ms. Singletary showcased the Kindergarten step up event and the Fifth Grade graduation on June 14th;
- She covered the results Fall 2022 to Spring 2023 for Achievement for students performing at or above 50th percentile - Math increased from 43% in Fall 2022 to 60% in Spring 2023 and Reading increased from 50% in Fall 2022 to 61% in Spring 2023. This represents kindergarten to 5th grade, national comparisons. Ms. Singletary mentioned that the goal is to increase to 75%. Third grade reading was questioned due to a decrease in improvement. Ms. Singletary explained this can be the result of more non english speaking students present, changing strategies and attendance. Questions around the results were also raised by Mr. and Mrs. Low and Gretchen Pusch. Mr. Singletary discussed MAP data in more detail for each grade. New strategies are in the works to improve

results in the Fall thru foundations and lavenia.

- Fifth graders are headed to some of the following schools: South Bronx Early College, University School, Zeta, Legacy prep, Capital prep. Mrs. Low asked if we have a tool for tracking/following our students. Ms. Singletary confirmed this is something to be put in place in the future. Ms. Curry will gather additional information on that data and share with the Board.
- Celebrating growth - from Fall to Spring in math 19% increase and in reading 26% increase; 4th grade 96% growth; 2nd and fourth grade are what SUNY looks at; she attributed growth to ICT classrooms (Integrated Co-teaching); attendance is above 85% for all classes, goal is to improve above 90% next year.
- Exact Path - math is most used, then reading, then language arts.
- Art showcase was a lovely event, parents, students and staff enjoyed and Ms. Franco was recognized for her contribution.

4. Harlem Campus [Principal's Report](#), Taleema Chesney

- Harlem is staying Anchored.
- Enrollment: 127 projected current and returning students; working on more enrollment strategies to aim to have two kindergarten classes, will have events and tables out in the community to attract scholars; offering summer school to new enrollees; scholars are demonstrating that they are owning their learning, non-mandated students want to attend summer program;
- Ms. Chesney discussed the data around NWEA MAP results for SY 22-23: results met are 49% ELA and 59% Math; Mr. Low asked the questions if this projected growth means we are meeting the 75% for the charter and Ms. Chesney explained that the projected growth measures individual scholar growth and it is not the same as the 75% national average; On or above national norm - 59% ELA, 44% Math, this is growth from last year; Ms. Chesney praised the teachers in Harlem for all the work they are doing despite being short staffed;
- Exact Path: Ms. Garcia's second grade class use of language received recognition for being creative and successful.
- Attendance: between 81% and 86% (affected by some of the same students being absent. Working on a system to help with attendance.
- End of year wrap up - looking forward to next year by strategizing and implementing tools as a result from data diving, setting goals and collective planning; working on SY 23-24 assessment calendar.
- Second grade science showcase was fun and a big success, students worked on topics, researched and prepared presentations; A day in the life of Harlem "Reach for the Stars" event was held and it was engaging and lovely; Board member Shine this month is Peter Low.

5. Employee Manual: Presentation and Discussion > Marie Lucas, Director of HR, Compliance & Operations; vote for approval, SY 23-24 Calendar for approval, Discussion of safety plan approval to be posted for public comment on website

- Prior to July 2022 there was no current Employee Handbook or Policies in place; Marie Lucas joined at the time and began work to create those; major change is reflected in the Nepotism policy; HR policies in place, etc.; draft has been approved.
- Mr. Bayles put forth a motion to approve the Handbook and the Handbook was approved; the Board accepted the handbook unanimously.
- SY 23-24 Calendar: collaborative work with the team to lay out all school activity dates; First day of school is September 6 and the last day of school is June 26; Fridays at 1 p.m. - students early dismissal and teacher development; two additional days are built into the SY for unplanned closures in order to meet the 180 day requirement for school calendar; Ms. Lucas asked for approval of the calendar;
- Mr. Bayles put forward a motion to vote on the SY 23-24 calendar which was seconded; questions and discussion around what happens to students whose parents are not able to get them early, DOA partnership and alternative school activities were discussed as options; Mr. Bayles called for a vote of approval and the calendar was approved.
- Ms. Lucas asked for the Board's permission to post Storefront's safety plans on our website for public comment from now until the August Board meeting, as part of Storefront's compliance with the State. If there are no public comments, we can get it approved in the August meeting.
- Mr. Bayles asked for a motion to approve her request - it has been approved.
- Mr. Bayles asked Ms. Curry to talk a little about the recent incident with a guard leaving earlier that created a situation. With a motion, the board honors Desiree Soulet for her bravery, presence of mind and courage in the protection of children and staff on June 13, 2023, in the face of danger. The board is grateful to Desiree, Lashawn Lewis and the Storefront staff for the many acts of courage, kindness and compassion they faced to quell their own fears and safeguard children and families on what should have been simply, a sunny Wednesday dismissal.

6. Finance Report > Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance

- Finances are on track, nothing has changed since the last report; ERC paperwork has been sent and currently waiting to hear back.

7. Enrollment updates

1. Harlem > Lorena Rodriguez - Ms. Chesney already provided in her [Principal's report update](#)
2. South Bronx > ACurry for Madeley Sanchez - Ms. Curry confirmed the

report is the same as she previously provided to the Board, SB is at 244 and goal is to reach 275

3. Enrollment associates update; Harlem & South Bronx, Alison Curry

8. Interim ED Report > Learning Tour take-aways
 - Ms. Curry did not present her assessment at this time as she felt the Board meeting discussion so far really demonstrated the picture of improvement for education of excellence, which aligned with her report.

9. Public Comments - no comments

10. Adjournment - meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. EST

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- The board passed the SY24 budget in executive session.

The meeting covered five topics:

1. Voted to accept contract with Interim Executive Solutions and Alison Curry as circulated;
2. Voted to establish a Friends of Storefront Academy Organization and authorize Alison Curry to proceed with its creation.
3. Discussed lease for 443 east 115th st. but took no action
4. Discussed settlement of lease with The Children's Storefront, but took no action.
5. Discussed various procedures to improve financial performance.

The next Meeting is Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. EST

Minutes submitted by Maria Smith.