



Thursday, December 15, 2022 @6:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 8799-566-6888  
Passcode: AYRG@7

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of minutes
3. School Reports
4. Board Committee Reports
5. CEO Report
6. Public Comments
7. Adjournment

## Trustees Present

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

### Storefront Academy Staff:

Ms. Alison Curry, Interim CEO

Mr. Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance

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, Director of Technology

## **1. Call to Order**

- Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- The CEO and Board Chair agreed to a change of the meeting schedule due to weather impacts on personnel who were still at work.

## **2. School Report**

### **South Bronx:**

- November math quizzes across the schools focused on the areas that need improvement.
- Third and Fourth grades showed significant growth. These grades have been working with The Einstein Program; remote tutoring to students.
- Kindergarten and First Grades did not show the anticipated gains, although there was observed growth. The staff nonetheless received insight into near-term goals.
- The second F&P assessment cycles were ongoing. Data should be completely compiled in January, showing the projections and gains.
- Even though it is only mid-year, some students have already shown many reading grade level improvements, as well as some students who have surpassed goals and expectations.
- Parent/Teacher conferences are upcoming. There will also be Zoom meetings with families. Individualized data will be discussed, given all the testing that has been conducted recently.
- There was a successful public hearing, part of the SUNY renewal process. Parents and staff provided their experiences with the Academy.
- Seasonal family pictures were offered to students and families; it was appreciated by families.

- Trimester community projects were completed; the First Grade students visited the neighborhood firehouse and engaged with firefighters, learning about what they do and provide to the community. Parents and teachers were involved, and it was a great community experience.
- Fourth Grade students will engage with Mott Haven Community Partnership and distribute blankets through the neighborhood.
- Fifth Grade students set up nooks at two local businesses, where they will offer books donated by the Academy.

#### Harlem Campus:

- Ongoing the second round of F&P testing; currently at 90% completion.
- The timing of the collection of test scores enables the staff to analyze the data over the winter break, and identify trends and establish realistic goals for the students.
- Five additional teaching staff were able to assist with F&P testing.
- Some students have shown growth beyond expectations; others have fallen short. The staff and leadership are assessing supplemental resources to support instruction for all students at all levels.
- Attendance in the last week has improved; most absences have been because of illness such as flu, given the current season. The staff has focused on supporting those students who cannot attend school.
- A new mask mandate is in place, and leadership hopes that the current guidelines will keep students and staff safe through the rest of the school term.
- Enrollment for the Harlem Campus is up to 80 students.
- Leadership is cooperating actively with SCHOLA to increase recruitment.
- There was some Scholastic money left over from the previous year, so Third and Fourth Grade students were gifted \$20 vouchers for books, and teachers were gifted \$40 vouchers.

### **3. Committee Reports**

#### **Finance Committee Report**

There was an annual deficit, but the current cash reserves will suffice for SY 22-23. The Academy was \$2.1M below expected revenue from projected enrollment. Expenses were \$20K lower in the year. The total expected shortfall is approximately \$930K, including depreciation. The school projects to complete the academic year with \$630K.

#### **Academic Committee Report**

The Committee sought to create better relations between the Board, School, community, and staff. The Committee further discussed adding a parent representative to the Committee. Volunteers are needed and encouraged for various positions, such as someone to assist in the library.

#### **Governance Committee Report**

The advisory report was in the works and upcoming.

### **4. 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. With no further discussion, or any objections or abstentions, the minutes were accepted.
- The October minutes had been circulated with an expected addition previously discussed to the Audit Committee report.
- Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adopt the revised October minutes. A motion to adopt the revised minutes was made. With no further discussion, or any objections or abstentions, the minutes were accepted.

## **5. CEO report**

- The SUNY renewal public meeting had 60 participants; 16 of whom spoke on the Academy's behalf, which seemed like a fitting end to that process.
- Leadership will create and formulate a 360 assessment and development plan for Academy staff, in order to better assess and provide feedback to staff and enhance everyone's capabilities, ensuring the Academy can grow.
- In upcoming months, all staff members' positions will be reevaluated to ensure that duties and personnel are effective.
- Policies and procedures in the Employee Handbook will be updated.

## **6. Public Comment**

Regarding the budget, it is important for staff and the public to know more about the details of the budget discussion. This discussion brings uncertainty about the Academy's finances.

The board will endeavor to share a more detailed report beginning the following month. However, the main issue involves revenue, which involves students. The more students on the rolls, the better the Academy finances will be.

## **7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.