



BOARD MINUTES:

Thursday, February 16, 2023 @6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: [872 7133 4804](#)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Minutes
3. South Bronx Campus Principal's Report
4. Harlem Campus Principal's Report
5. Board Committee Reports
6. Public Comments
7. SACS Fiscal Policies and Procedures Approval
8. SACS 5-Year Budget; Annual Budget
9. Budget Approval for Test Preparation
10. Employee Manual
11. Interim ED Evaluation
12. Revised Org Chart
13. Adjournment

Trustees Present

Richard Bayles
Gretchen Pusch
Jonathan Stearns
Peter Low
Amanda Low

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
Ms. Madeley Sanchez, Parent Coordinator
Mr. Matthew Tiwari, Director of Technology
Ms. Yubdeley Ricardo, Finance and HR Associate
Ms. Lorena Rodriguez, Harlem Campus Office Manager
Tanyshia Phillip, Harlem Grade K teacher
Yesenia Graham, Special Education Coordinator
Gloria Hernandez, South Bronx, Grade 2 Teacher
Katherine Vasquez, South Bronx, Grade 4 Teacher
Aniberca Abreu, South Bronx, Grade 4 Teacher
Nicole Garcia, Harlem, Grade 2 teacher
Desiree Soulet, South Bronx, Librarian
Stephanie Reeder, Harlem, Academic Interventionist
Isis Roman, South Bronx, Grade K Teacher
Katherine Pimentel, South Bronx, Teaching Assistant
Yolanda Artadi, South Bronx, Grade 2 Teacher
Nereida Morales, South Bronx, Instructional Coach

1. Call to Order

- Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.
- Ms. Pusch made a motion to add the following resolution to the record:

We heaved a collective sigh of relief with the news this week that our evaluators have recommended reauthorization to the SUNY Board.

We are deeply grateful to Alison Curry for leading the organizational charge, for navigating the arduous application process, and for never giving up hope; and to Carol Singletary and the staff at the South Bronx school for their vision and hard work.

We also thank the Harlem school staff for its support; the Executive Committee, especially Chair Richard Bayles, and Vice-Chair Peter Low, who volunteered countless hours meeting with lawyers, consultants, and SUNY and school staff, and we surely would not be here today without their considerable efforts.

We are thrilled that the SUNY, understanding the formidable challenges of the last several years, saw what we have accomplished, saw our potential for the future, and saw fit to recommend the Storefront Academy for reauthorization.

- The motion was seconded. Without further discussion or any objections or abstentions, the motion was accepted and the resolution was made part of the record.
- 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.

3. Committee Reports

Governance Committee Report

Advisory boards are being considered for each school campus to enhance local involvement, transparency, and participation. Principals should consider participants for their respective boards.

Academic Committee Report

The Committee's current main goal is to encourage love of reading and how to best utilize the library. Friends of Storefront and parents are encouraged to come to the school on Wednesdays to read to children, while the staff conducts personal

development. A letter of invitation will be prepared and sent to inform the public. As members are nominated, the Committee will vet recommendations.

4. School Report: South Bronx Campus

- 59% of 3/4/5 Grade students were above MAP math scores, and 60% of ELA scores. This data shows great growth from the fall scores.
- 83% of students showed growth in math, and 80% showed growth in reading.
- The year began with 42% of students above 50% math scores and 46% of students above 50% in reading; current scores show 85%/81% respectively. Only three students have not been tested, therefore the data is very reliable.
- School-wide, 85%/81% of students made or exceeded their projected growth in math and reading, respectively.
- Attendance has improved in the first two weeks of the month, nearly reaching the 90% attendance goal.
- The board discussed that the correlation between the student success and attendance.
- Compared to the school district average scores, the campus scores are higher, overall.
- Consistency and mindset focused on growth also contribute to the success of the campus.

5. School Report: Harlem Campus

- There are 79 students currently enrolled; the goal is to have 90 students enrolled. The campus is working closely with SCHOLA to continue to enroll students.
- A new Grade 4 teacher has been hired.
- Two teacher positions remain vacant.
- Some students remain to be administered the MAP testing.
- 100% of kindergarten students met their projected ELA/math growth targets.
- 42%/36% of Grade 1 students met their projected ELA/math growth targets, respectively.
- 73%/60% of Grade 2 students met their projected ELA/math growth targets, respectively.
- 60%/40% of Grade 3 students met their projected ELA/math growth targets, respectively.
- 79%/57% of Grade 4 students met their projected ELA/math growth targets, respectively. This grade has not had stable teachers all year, but they have shown great progress nonetheless and have performed very well.
- School-wide, 55%/66% growth for ELA/math, respectively, was observed.
- Exact Path usage shows that students have focused on developing their math skills.
- Students were incentivized to perform well in testing by posting their names and

adding them to a random draw for gift cards and other prizes.

6. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

7. SACS Fiscal Policies and Procedures Approval

Given previous financial issues, the Academy hired a company to assess the fiscal policies and review all relevant documents and procedures.

8. SACS 5-Year Budget; Annual Budget

The budget had been shared and discussed with SUNY.

The loan with the Children's Storefront was paid off in January.

9. Budget Approval for Test Preparation

A request for a \$12,000 investment in extended school day program for the testing grades, 3/4/5, for test preparation was submitted to the board for discussion. The program was proposed to run after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at both campuses to prepare the students for mastery season. In the South Bronx, select students would be invited; in Harlem, all students.

There was a motion to approve the test preparation plans, at a cost of \$12,000 as described and its necessary budget. The motion was seconded. With no further discussion and no objections or abstentions, the motion was accepted.

10. Employee Manual

The employee manual is in the final steps is complete and with Storefront's attorney for review. Once approved, the manual will be distributed to the staff.

11. Interim ED Evaluation

The 360-review process is being finalized. The Interim ED would be the first person to be evaluated with a 360 evaluation, the Board's evaluation, and a self-evaluation would be included. The board discussed that staff be safeguarded to report concerns without penalty.

12. Revised Org Chart

The organizational chart was revised with our filed SUNY documents.

There were Board deficiencies identified by SUNY that still need to be addressed.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.