

1/16/20
609 Jackson Avenue Bronx, NY 10455

Trustees in Attendance: Richard Bayles, Peter Low, Amanda Low, Justin Tolliver, Tanya Hoffler-Moore, Susan Reid

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance), Ms. Fernandez (South Bronx Assistant Principal), Ms. Johnson (Assistant Principal Harlem), Mr. Tiwary (Data Manager), Mr. Smith (South Bronx Dean), Ms. Singletary (South Bronx Principal), Ms. Chesney (Harlem Principal), Natalia Perez (Director of Communications), Ms. Fisher (Harlem Counselor)

Minutes

Mr. Bayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December Board meeting. Mr. Low motioned to go over the minutes. Mrs. Low seconded his motion, and all agreed in favor to approve the minutes.

Mr. Bayles discussed the results of the 3 year SUNY temporary renewal that was granted to the Storefront Academy Charter School.

Dr. Garcia we are stated that the Board would be able to make changes to the report SUNY drafted. Board members agreed that SUNY captured the culture and the story of the Storefront Academy in their report.

Board Committees Report

Finance Committee

Mr. Bayles said that our projected cash position is up and we are in good shape.

Academics Committee

Dr. Garcia explained to the board how staff have been recruiting, looking for new instructors and have been holding table events for the school in order to ensure successful enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. She also explained to the board that the new instructional model for the upcoming year would have 1 teacher in every classroom, along with a counselor on each floor and a Director of student support.

Dr. Garcia also spoke to the board about ways in which the school is working to help increase future enrollment. Storefront Academy will be holding Open Houses and Black History Month movie nights, as well as other events, in order to keep prospective parents and students engaged with our school. Mr. Bayles agreed and added that these events will be important for future enrollment in September and October.

Dr. Garcia discussed the enrollment goals for both schools next year. Ms. Chesney also spoke about the recruitment process and how the school has been working within the Harlem community, daycare centers, and businesses in order to recruit more students.

Ms. Singletary spoke to the board about how teachers are working on priority standards and map testing. She also discussed how they are visiting other successful Charter Schools to learn new ways of implementing curriculum. A teaching boot camp was also created and designed to identify new teaching practices and strategies.

Real Estate Committee

Mr. Low discussed two possible opportunities we have to rent property next to the 609 building.. Dr. Garcia discussed with board members her recent walkthrough of the space saying it could provide room to open up 5 more classrooms in the current 609 building. Mr. Low and board members also discussed that the renovations would be minimal and mostly cosmetic, and also include costs for technology. Mr. Low also discussed starting with a 3 year term with options to increase to a 5 year term in the future. Dr. Garcia added that this opportunity would be great and allow more space and possibilities to expand the school. Mr. Low said that by the February board meeting, the real estate committee can move forward with a more formal proposal to secure this opportunity.

Board members discussed the future of the 70 building in Harlem. Mr. Low went over the possibility of asking for a rental extension or buying the building. Trustees also discussed the cost of purchasing 3 buildings for the future of the school. The real estate committee spoke about the advantages of staying in the 70 building with one class per grade within the school.

Mr. Bayles asked for a motion to empower the real estate committee to open up the right to buy the building. Mr. Low make the motion. Mrs. Hoffer-Moore seconded the motion and all approved.

Mrs. Reid asked to amend the motion to empower the real estate committee to also maintain the right to rent and pursue the right to buy once the board of trustees are ready. Mrs. Hoffer-Moore seconded the motion to amend the motion. All in favor agreed.

The Development Committee discussed an upcoming bowling fundraiser event planned for February 13th.

Mr. Bayles motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40pm

Mr. Low seconded the motion and all agreed to adjourn.