



Thursday, September 23, 2021 @6:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 864 5704 4857

Passcode: %0Ga0t

### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of July Minutes
3. Adoption of August Minutes
4. Adoption of August 20, 2021, Vote Meeting Minutes
5. Lavinia Group Presentation
6. Key Metrics
7. School Report
8. Board Committee Reports
9. Public Comment
- 10.** Adjournment

## Trustees Present

Richard Bayles
Gretchen Pusch
Justin Tolliver
Noel Acey
Peter Low
Amanda Low
Tanya Hoffler-Moore
Susan Reid
Reby Gulcan

### Storefront Academy Staff:

Dr. Nicole Campbell, CEO

Mr. Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance

Ms. Maria Ruiz, CEO Executive Assistant

Ms. Natalia Perez, Director of Communications

Ms. Yoselyn Fernandez, South Bronx Assistant Principal

Ms. Amia Fisher, Dean of Students Harlem

Ms. Taleema Chesney, Principal Harlem

Ms. Carol Singletary, Principal South Bronx

Ms. Syndney Solomon, Lavinia Group Managing Director of Schools

Ms. Beth Zhang, Lavinia Group Chief Schools Officer

## **1. Call to Order**

- Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

## **2. Lavinia Group Presentation**

- Ms. Solomon briefed the board regarding the Lavinia Group's mission statement, current operations, methodologies, and staff and other resources available to the Academy and the partnership between the agencies.
- Compared to other school systems, Lavinia Group's other ELA partners in New York City had better student development than the public school system.
- Part of the program involves improving teacher's capabilities and techniques, in order to provide the best education to students, to include improving critical thinking skills. Teachers will be better able to cultivate an exciting learning environment in the classroom. Any teachers having difficulty with the new system will be assessed and coached individually.
- Lavinia Group will establish assessment benchmarks throughout the year in order to formally and informally collect data and understand how to best assist students and improve their performance.
- The campus principals' goals were about discourse and stimulating students to engage in more discussions, and the partnership has engaged with the principals and staff to improve education. Students have already responded well to the improvements.

## **3. Adoption of July Minutes**

- Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adopt the previous meeting's minutes. Such motion was made, seconded, and the motion passed without objection. The minutes were adopted.

## **4. Adoption of August Minutes**

- Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the August board meeting. A potential correction to the minutes, to wit: whether quorum was achieved towards the end of the meeting, was discussed. The recorder will verify the recording of such a meeting and advise the board accordingly, whether

such correction should be made. Pending the potential revision, the motion for adoption of the minutes was made, seconded, and the motion passed without objection. The minutes were adopted.

## **5. Key Metrics**

- South Bronx enrollment was 307 students at the time, 28 students below the goal, partially due to families moving and transitioning because of COVID consequences.
- Both campuses had positive COVID cases. Students affected will attend virtual instruction. K through 2nd Grade will be virtual, temporarily. All other grades are currently unaffected. Parents had been advised to test their students.
- Fall MAP testing will begin in October.
- DoE provides on-site PCR testing for some students per campus/district, covering 10 percent of the student population. Some parents had declined testing for their students.
- Approximately 20 staff members had not been vaccinated. Some staff members changed their opinions on whether to vaccinate, given policy changes, where the government changed from demanding vaccination for school staff to being able to be tested weekly and not be tested.
- The attorneys will be consulted regarding dealing instances where the NY City Mayor and the NY Governor offices issued conflicting COVID guidance relevant to the Academy.

## **6. Committee Reports**

### **Finance Committee**

- The Academy had \$2.6M cash-on-hand balance at the time. By the end of the fiscal year, the cash-on-hand amount should reduce to approximately \$1M.
- SL2 grant of \$800K has been fully processed and approved, and 20% of the grant had been received. These monies will be and has been spent in libraries and summer/after-school programs, respectively.
- There will be a \$115K deduction from the previous school year, due to lower student attendance than anticipated in the South Bronx campus.
- ARS grant application would be submitted soon.

- PPP loans, totaling approximately \$1M, had been fully forgiven.
- The audit was ongoing, and it should be completed soon.

#### **Academic Committee**

- No additional report; the Lavinia Group presentation covered all relevant portions.

#### **Governance Committee**

- No report.

#### **Development Committee**

- There was a \$15K grant from Morgan Stanley.
- PayPal and check donations need to be reported to the committee for tracking.
- Bowling event will be scheduled for February 2022.

#### **Real Estate Committee**

- In a meeting with the Children's Storefront, they will require a down payment for the lease.

### **7. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.