



Thursday, April 15, 2021 @6:00 p.m.
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 947 7804 6967
Password: =40j+*6

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of March Minutes
3. Key Metrics
4. School Report
5. Board Committee Reports
6. Public Comment
7. Adjournment

Trustees Present

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

Storefront Academy Staff:

- Dr. Nicole Garcia, CEO
- Ms. Carol Singletary, South Bronx Principal
- Ms. Amia Fisher, Dean of Harlem
- Mr. Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance
- Ms. Maria Ruiz, CEO Executive Assistant
- Ms. Elizabeth Ruiz, Harlem Registrar
- Ms. Natalia Perez, Director of Communications
- Ms. Taleema Chesney, Harlem Principal
- Ms. Nidia Evangelista, Director of Operations
- Ms. Lorena Rodriguez, South Bronx Registrar
- Ms. Yoselyn Fernandez, South Bronx Assistant Principal
- Mr. Matthew Tiwary, Director of Technology
- Ms. Dignorlyn Poweriet, Director of Development

Other Attendees:

Ms. Barb Acenowr
Mr. Connor LeClair
Mr. Ralph Rossi
Mr. John Flack
Ms. Jennifer Johnson
Ms. Maureen Foley
Mr. Stalyn Tejada
Ms. Nereida Morales

1. Call to Order

Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

2. Adoption of March Minutes

Mr. Bayles moved to adopt the minutes from the previous board meeting. The minutes were adopted without objection.

3. Key Metrics

- The overall student retention was of 95%.
- The South Bronx School retention was of 94%.
- The Harlem School retention was of 100%.
- 21% of students were ELL.

4. School Report

- There were no staff vacancies.
- Staff members were sent, and they returned, intent-to-return forms. Two teachers indicated they were moving out of State.
- Attendance dropped after spring break. Before the break, overall attendance was at 93%. After the break, Harlem School attendance dropped to 87%, and South Bronx attendance dropped to 85%.
- Upcoming goals for the Academy included improving student attendance.
- The current education mode of the Academy was hybrid, and the institution complied with City and CDC guidelines.
- Staff members were sent, and they returned, an immunization survey, which showed that 24 staff members had been vaccinated, 19 staff members had no plans of being vaccinated, and the remaining members were unsure whether to vaccinate.
- The summer program was being designed as a hybrid model, prioritizing ELL and IEP students who may need additional help. The school week will include 4 days of instruction.
- A private donor provided Springboard services for the summer,

which would be documented in the Academy's accounts as an in-kind donation, given that the donor will pay Springboard directly.

- Teacher salaries for the summer period will be approximately \$70-80K, below the \$100K initial budget. However, federal grants may cover these salaries.
- The Academy conducted various response-to-intervention meetings, wherein families were encouraged to ensure students complete their tasks.
- Virtual instruction had proven very intensive, therefore there were teacher recruitment efforts to accommodate.
- During the summer period, the intent is to have a school day of 8:30 am to 1:00 pm, in order for families to enjoy the summer while receiving all required education materials.
- Parents will receive a survey regarding whether to make the next semester's class start time earlier.
- All students who had participated in Springboard increased three to four reading levels, therefore such progress was expected during the summer program. Springboard was also in the process of adding more programs and platforms.
- Both special education and regular enrollments were steady.
- Preliminary MAP data, with about 60% of students having been tested at the time, showed that majority of students showed growth in math skills.
- Students had explained and expressed that reading was an issue. Various ideas and plans were being considered to improve students' reading levels, such as improving on high-level concepts, mixing students of different grades based on reading interests, and creating a challenging bookworm club.
- Small-group development and teacher interaction would be implemented, in order for teachers to use the MAP data and work with the students on specific skills. This would help them build on specific skillsets.
- Teachers would also be teamed based on experience and abilities; a less-experienced teacher would be paired with a more experienced, seasoned educator in order for the teachers and their classes to collaborate and improve together. Further, students would be assigned individual tasks, instead of giving class-wide assignments, in order to benefit individual students.
- Kindergarten students required more specific focus, given that this grade is their first exposure both to learning environments and digital learning.

- Student progress would be determined via ExactPath, which had access to MAP data.
- Positive reinforcement and challenges would gauge progress and inspire students to excel.
- The South Bronx School attendance lottery took place on April 1st; there were 300 applications, and 174 students remained on the waiting list.
- The Harlem School did not undergo a lottery, because there were fewer applications than the available seats. There were 92 applications, below the 125-student goal. After current and expected attendance acceptance notices, there would be 83 students enrolled.
- There had been and were ongoing recruitment efforts for the Harlem School, to include referral bonuses, community engagement, flyers, and others.
- The Harlem School generally carried a deficit, which was offset during the current year due to COVID benefits. Each newly recruited student offsets the deficit by \$10K. Retention, however, was high.

5. Committee Reports

Academic Committee

- The Academy's main goals will soon include family outreach, in order to allow parents and families to speak with support staff in order to support the students.
- Hiring personnel from out of State would help the local staff's workload.
- Pro bono therapists and professionals have engaged families and provided services and advice on how to deal with the current climate.

Finance Committee

- The State approved a budget on April 1st, and the rate per pupil would be around \$16.8K.
- The Academy's budget was on par with annual projections.
- A grant payment was about to be received.
- There were no issues nor major purchases.

Real Estate Committee

- The Harlem real estate market value had dropped, which could affect the rent in that area.
 - The loan on this property would be extended through the end of the lease. At the end of this term, the existing loan would be almost paid off.
 - The Pontiac property renovations were ongoing and on schedule.
- If the Academy retained the Harlem property for a longer period, a building could be added to the back of the property to accommodate more students, which would improve that school's finances.

Development Committee

- The Committee met regularly.
- Donations have begun arriving for March and April, totaling \$3900.
- The Popping Sweets fundraiser had begun.
- The loose letter was upcoming.

Governance Committee

- A more complete matrix for the board would soon be completed.

6. Public Comments (summary of questions and answers)

- No more than 40% of the board should be part of the board of any other organization, except another charter school.

7. Adjournment

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