

3/19/20

Virtual Meeting via Google Hangouts Meet

Trustees in Attendance: Richard Bayles, Gretchen Pusch, Eileen Niedzwiecki, Jonathan Stearns, Justin Tolliver

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO), Ms. Singletary (South Bronx Principal), Ms. Chesney (Harlem Principal), Ms. Johnson (Assistant Principal-Harlem), Ms. Fernandez (Assistant Principal- South Bronx), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance), Natalia Perez (Director of Communications)

Minutes

Quorum was not present. Board minutes were not approved until the following meeting on April 23, 2020.

Finance Report

Mr. Bayles reported that the school finances are looking very good for the year. Mr. Wolf informed board members that there will be discussions about Trinet and the benefits package. He said they will need to know the budget and what our funding will be for the next year going forward for the employees.

School Report

Dr. Garcia said that auditors have been at the school over the past few weeks. The auditors had to stop because of the coronavirus concerns.

Dr. Garcia informed the board that upon leaving the school, teachers and administrators were able to pass out books and tablets to students. Teachers have also been having training on google classroom and virtual meetings to prepare for distance learning.

As for sending out offer letters, Dr. Garcia said that they are usually sent out by Memorial Day. She said that we cannot get the letters out until a vote is approved on the budget.

Dr. Garcia said that time is of essence in these matters. Mr. Low said that the committee would be meeting again and bring another update to the board once a proposal was finalized.

Academics Committee-

Mrs. Low discussed concerns of student attendance and winter map testing scores with the board. Ms. Singletary spoke about a new program that was introduced to teachers and how a learning curve could have possibly affected scores, she also mentioned that new teachers were added and additional coaching is being provided. Dr. Garcia said she spoke to students about their scores and the need to do well on the next ELA and Math exams scheduled for the end of March and April.

Dr. Garcia spoke about the Harlem school preparing for their SUNY visit. The importance of having great attendance, high scores, and continuing to provide great resources for students including the care closet and counseling.

She also told trustees about incentives for the classes and students that have the highest scores on their exams. There will be a focus on phonics, core knowledge, and systemic awareness for the third grade.

Dr. Garcia told the board about a young men's mentoring group that will be starting on March 6th at 9:00am.

Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Pusch seconded the motion and all agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm.

Committees Report

Academics Committee

Mrs. Low spoke to the board about a food bank that was created by mentors and staff at the school for students who are in shelters and transient housing. She said that there were food donations including bags of rice, canned foods, and hygiene items as well.

Real Estate Committee

Dr. Garcia spoke about her visit to the the 611 property with Mr. Tolliver and Mr. Bayles. She said they all met with the landlord and visited the property which includes an upper floor available in the future. Some of the details are being negotiated and include discounted rental fees in exchange for cosmetic renovations needed to move in.

There are 4 bids from contractors to do the work on the property which would cost between 200-210K in order to bring the building up to code.

The landlord's attorney is drawing up paperwork and it should be reviewed soon. Renovations are set to begin in early May with a move in date by July 1st. This move would free up space for more classrooms in the 609 building.

Dr. Garcia said that the landlord has agreed to the rental of the property, and as soon as we hear from our lawyer, we will call a meeting and present it to the board.

Ms. Niedzwiecki motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pusch seconded and all approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.