



Thursday, May 26, 2022 @6:03 p.m.
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 892 9349 8465
Passcode: weD\$5i

AGENDA

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

Trustees Present

Richard Bayles
Gretchen Pusch
Noel Acey
Peter Low
Amanda Low
Susan Reid
Jonathan Stearns

Storefront Academy Staff:

Dr. Nicole Campbell, CEO
Mr. Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance
Ms. Natalia Perez, Director of Communications
Ms. Carol Singletary, South Bronx Principal
Ms. Nidia Evangelista, Director of Operations
Ms. Taleema Chesney, Harlem Principal
Ms. Amia Fisher, Dean of Harlem
Ms. Maria Ruiz, CEO Executive Assistant
Ms. Yoselyn Fernandez, South Bronx Assistant Principal
Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Director of Student Support

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of Minutes

● 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. School Report

- For the South Bronx Campus, there were 33 new student applications which originated from Meta (Facebook), Google, and other platforms.

- For the Harlem Campus, there were 25 new student applications from Meta (Facebook), Google, and other platforms.

- There are 75 completed applications as of the time of the meeting.

- Families are encouraged to complete their documentation promptly; no seats will be held beyond 5 days. If a family does not complete the necessary documentation, the next person on the wait list will be contacted.

- The board discussed that all calculations and assumptions are that all new applications come from the marketing expenditure. At a minimum, any received application that can be traced directly to Meta (Facebook) or Google could be directly tracked and attributed to that specific advertisement.

- Teacher recruitment was ongoing, to include staff for summer school. A week-long training for any new summer school staff under Lavinia Group guidance will begin on June 27th.

- Some other positions, such as counselor, teachers, and one registrar are open due to in-house promotions and other personnel changes. This does not reflect personnel losses.

- Salaries for incoming personnel or raises for current personnel cannot be discussed with them because the budget has not been finalized.

- Repairs for the building owned by the Children's Storefront organization were completed, and the final inspection was due in order to obtain

the Certificate of Occupancy.

- State testing have been completed.
- MAP testing will soon begin.

- Some scholarships may be available to allow some students to participate with the Harlem School of the Arts summer visual arts program. More information will follow, after meeting with relevant personnel.

- Some teachers have approached the principals about writing letters of support for the victims and survivors of the Texas school shooting. The Academy has to consider potential second-tier effects or issues arising from this situation, before addressing these requests.
 - Academy staff has inquired about the school procedures for such emergencies or situations.
 - Students do not seem to bring up the issue yet; however, after Memorial Day weekend, they may come back with such issues in their minds. At the time of the meeting, there have been many more issues with mental health with the students, but this current school shooting has not yet affected the students, as reported by the mental health providers and counselors.
 - The discussions seem to be between adults at the moment, to include discussions about how to breach these topics and engage with students if they are affected by these outside stressors.
 - Social-emotional learning is of big importance for the Academy, and students share how they feel and help each other. This social support is the first step in prevention, which has led to referral and treatment of mental health or emotional issues for students. There have been too many suicidal ideations and self-harm by students recently, and the Academy is doing everything possible to support staff, students, and families.
 - There is a general theme around violence in the country; the board discussed whether to preemptively engage staff and students about these subjects, or engage with them after they bring up such subjects. A grave consideration is that students share their emotions differently than adults. It was agreed that offering support to adults, both staff and families, should be the first step, which would help students along the process and assist counselors and teachers.

- There is a new security company contracted for the campuses; the board discussed whether a townhall with counselors, staff, and the new security company representatives would benefit and boost the families' confidence. New security protocols, up to and including campus lockdowns, will be prepared and introduced.

4. Committee Reports

Academic Committee

- The Academy is working on improving the arts programs.
- A librarian for the Harlem Campus is still needed.
- Some supply issues have affected the library, such as shelves.
- Some Committee members were able to observe student performance in the classroom, which showed great progress since the execution of the Lavinia Group collaboration.
- It is unclear whether the relationship with Julliard can be utilized in advertisement, which will be clarified as the agreement is formalized.
- In communications with other charter schools, there has been an overall drop in student applications; this is not an issue limited to the Academy.

Governance Committee

- The basis for the strategic, long-term plan were being worked on, to include further expanding the development plans and to place specific action items per strategic objective.

Finance Committee

- \$700,000 net income projected for the remainder of the year, allowing \$1.4M cash-on-hand by the end of the year.
- The board discussed that the original, overall budget was of about \$1.2M. However, there was a drop on per-pupil revenue, which was compensated by using the grant money already obtained in 2 years rather than 3 years, or 1 year instead of 2 years.

- Marketing expenditure was higher than originally budget.
- Lavinia Group expense had not been originally budgeted.

- The Committee needs Board approval to engage in a contract with bill.com. Engaging with this company would help streamline the payment of bills and dues instead of issuing checks. Further, this would facilitate audits by keeping all necessary auditing documentation and approved actions in one easily accessible platform. This would include expense limits for certain personnel, up to board-required approval amounts.
 - Checks lost in the mail and forgeries have been a problem in recent years. This service would help mitigate these issues.
 - This service would require a \$50 monthly expense, plus a small amount per check issued.
 - Mr. Low made a motion to approve the expenditure and contract with bill.com. There was further discussion regarding whether the Finance Committee had examined all the features and services offered, and that utilizing this service had also been a recommendation from Boost Ed. There being no further discussion, nor any objections or abstentions, the motion was approved.

Development Committee

- The previously established goals for the Committee had not been accomplished. There should be a stay on adding specific goals to the long-term development plan.

Governance Committee

- Potential board members were being approached.
- There had been attempts to engage with those potential members, as well as have them come observe operations at the campuses, but COVID prevents some in-person contact.

6. Public Comments

- There were no public comments.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.