

11/21/19  
609 Jackson Avenue Bronx, NY 10455

Trustees in Attendance: Amanda Low, Eileen Niedzwiecki, Richard Bayles, Jonathan Stearns, Gretchen Pusch, Susan Reid.  
Video Conference: Peter Low, Noel Acey, Tanya Hoffler Moore, Ray Cameron  
Staff in Attendance: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO) (Video Conference), Ms. Chesney (Harlem Principal), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance) , Ms. Singletary ( South Bronx Principal), Ms. Fernandez (South Bronx Assistant Principal), Natalia Perez (Director of Communications)

Justin Tolliver-Board Prospect Candidate

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Mr. Stearns called the meeting to order at 6:15pm

### **I. Finance Meeting**

Mr. Wolf said that overall the school is ahead of budget on revenue so far. He also told board members that the school is still eligible for a new grant.  
Dr. Garcia proposed that we do a quarterly fundraising appeal where donors can choose what they want to donate their funds to. (i.e. funding can go towards tablets for a year)

Mr. Wolf said that payroll is on track and cash flow is still positive

#### **A) Audit Committee**

Mr. Bayles said that the audit committee met and the good news is that we have a clean audit. He also said that the books are well cared for and that the Board along with staff will be working on better documentation.

### **II. Approval of October Minutes**

Mr. Bayles motioned to approve the October minutes, Mrs. Pusch seconded the motion. Mr. Stearns asked if all approve of the minutes with the revisions, all agreed unanimously.

### **III. Introduction of Prospective Member Justin Tolliver**

Mr. Tolliver introduced himself to the Trustees. Mr. Tolliver spoke about his background in Real Estate and his interest to work with children and give back to the community.

### **IV. School Report**

Ms. Singletary said that the South Bronx location is working with teachers on different strategies and methods to improve test taking for students. She also said that they are working on MAP Instructional Framework as well.

Ms. Chesney said that the Harlem location is working with parents to ensure that students are celebrated. She said our focus is on academics.

Dr. Garcia discussed plans to improve Professional Development within the school. She said that teachers and staff are coming up with strategic plans for improvement. She also spoke about marketing and developing the school.

Dr. Garcia shared the good news with the board about the school being featured on a Bronxnet cable television show talking, discussing the food drive and the school itself. She also spoke about News 12 the Bronx covering a television story about the school for an annual turkey dinner giveaway event held for families before Thanksgiving.

## **V. Update on Board Committees**

Mr. Low (Chair of the Real Estate Committee) spoke about staying in the Harlem location an additional 2 years.

Mr. Low (Chair of the Planning Committee) spoke to the board about the Planning Committee meeting calendar which will hold meetings every 1st Wednesday of the month.

He also discussed the need to move from a 3 year operating plan to a 5 year strategic plan.

Mrs. Low (Chair of the Academics Committee) discussed how the members have looked at the assessment calendar in order to see what is coming up in terms of testing. She also said that a data dashboard is in the works so that we can see results about where we are in terms of the rest of the schools within the community.

Mrs. Pusch proposed that there continue to be more professional development for teachers.

Mr. Stearns (Chair of the Governance Committee) discussed meeting with Mr. Tolliver and also getting to know the prospective candidates over the upcoming weeks.

Mrs. Niedzwiecki (Chair of the Development Committee) discussed going over the content of mailings to prospective donors and setting up meeting dates in the near future with members.

## **VI. Preparation for November 25th Hearing at Harlem**

Dr. Garcia explained that the hearing will be held with SUNY to discuss the formality for the ceiling of students in Harlem. Board members also discussed being prepared to speak on behalf of the school.

## **VII. Process for review and approval of SACS Strategic Plan**

Dr. Garcia and board members discussed the 5 year strategic plan that was provided in the board packet. Dr. Garcia proposed discussing the 5 goals within the plan with teachers, staff and trustees in order to ensure overall success for the school. The board unanimously agreed.

## **VIII. Executive Session**

Mr. Stearns motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm All agreed.