



Thursday, June 17, 2021 @6:03 p.m.
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 999 9015 6326

Password: E9N@jT

AGENDA

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

Trustees Present

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

Storefront Academy Staff:

- Dr. Nicole Richardson-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. Natalia Perez, Director of Communications
- Ms. Taleema Chesney, Harlem Principal
- Ms. Nidia Evangelista, Director of Operations
- Ms. Yoselyn Fernandez, South Bronx Assistant Principal
- Mr. Matthew Tiwary, Director of Technology
- Ms. Dignorlyn Poweriet, Director of Development
- Ms. Jennifer Johnson, Director of Student Support
- Mr. Stalyn Tejada, Technology Teacher

1. Call to Order

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

2. Adoption of May Minutes

Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adopt the previous meeting's minutes. Such motion was made, seconded, there was discussion regarding how to properly record motions in future minutes, and the motion passed with no objection. The minutes were adopted.

3. Key Metrics, CEO, and Principals Reports

- Attendance improved throughout the last 2 weeks.
- Neither campus had lost any students since the last board meeting.
- There had not been any staff departures since the last board meeting.
- There were no current vacancies, other than next school year's expected staff requirements or upcoming vacancies.
- There was a hole in the backyard fence at the Harlem Campus, which may indicate some homeless people may have camped out there overnight; the landlord had been notified in order to have it fixed.
- There was a request for placing a ground-floor bathroom in the Harlem Campus. There had not yet been a response from the landlord.
- There had been a vehicular accident when a truck hit some stairs and damaged a rail in the front of the building; the building owners and the police were handling the issue. There had been no student or staff injuries.
- The South Bronx campus had some mold on the seventh floor and other spaces. The landlords had been notified but did not respond; the Academy's attorneys have addressed the issue with the landlords, which evoked a response.
- Lavinia Group, a national curriculum specialist group, had been contracted to assess the humanities curriculum.
- Both campuses were being prepared for summer school, which will proceed from July 6th through August 10th. The enrollment was kept below 15.
- MAP data would be ready the following month.

- The 2021-2022 budget was pending approval for submission to SUNY.
- Advertisements in *The New York Post* ran during Memorial Day weekend.
 - The second grocery giveaway, and a book giveaway, were held in early June at the Abraham House.
 - The MTA digital campaign and radio advertisement will begin at the end of the month.
 - A new library was under consideration to be built with COVID relief funds, which would be in the Pontiac Building. It would feature a full-time media specialist and librarian, which would allow students to check out books, in order to reduce the literacy gap.
 - The South Bronx campus leadership team focused on reviewing the goals and actions plan, and the end-of-year assessments and activities. In keeping with the reading initiative, students were pushed to engage with the local libraries and their summer reading challenge, in addition to the Springboard summer program activities.
 - The Harlem campus leadership team focused on goal setting for summer activities that will improve students' abilities.
 - The Savoy Apartment Complex would allow the Harlem campus staff to advertise services and participate in local activities. If students were to enroll from this area, the addresses would be provided to the busing company, and they would generate a bus stop.

4. Committee Reports

Real Estate Committee

- Certain phone calls and meetings have not been able to be had due to scheduling conflicts.

Governance Committee

- There were plans to improve the board processes, to include nominations and governance.

Development Committee

- Two top-tier events were forthcoming.
- A sponsorship development deck was being developed.

Academic Committee

- In communications with the Director of Education and Strategies at The Julliard School, and a program where post-graduate students would be sent to public school setting.
 - Storefront schools would benefit in becoming lab schools for this Julliard program.
 - If the board approved, a meeting could be set up with Julliard representatives to move the project forward.

Finance Committee

- The PPP loans were fully forgiven.
- Some application deadlines approached.
- All finances were on track as expected, with a small year's-end surplus.
 - The State increased the per-pupil funding from \$16,123 to \$16,844 per student; enrollment goals were 335 and 100 students in South Bronx and Harlem, respectively. Between the increase in enrollment and per-pupil allowance, the budget increased 18% to \$7M, based solely in per-pupil fund allocation.
 - Harlem campus should see a higher increase than the South Bronx campus because the title funding for Harlem was extremely low, because the Academy was overpaid the previous year.
 - The federal government released the SL2 and ASR grants, running through September 2023 and 2024, respectively. The former covers preventing, preparing for, and responding to COVID-19, and it was of about \$785K. The ASR grant consisted of \$1.76M, which would cover similar areas than the SL2 grant, but also would address learning loss, requiring at least 20% of those funds would need to be utilized for that purpose. Some examples of how the funds could be utilized are summer school, extended days, library, cleaning supplies, mental

health services, et cetera.

- Payroll increased by \$800K, or 15%, to include cost-of-living increases and new, necessary staff positions.
- The curriculum assessment would cost about \$260K for a 2-year period.
- Technology and telephone expenses should reduce, given that the online connectivity for student devices is no longer required. Further, the technology vendor contract had been renegotiated, which substantially decreased the monthly service costs.
- The cost for facilities has increased due to rent increase and the new administrative location, adding new janitorial services and maintenance, as well as COVID-related maintenance.
- Insurance costs increased 20%, which apparently was the case due to COVID.
- \$405k had been added as capital expenditures, such as new books, assuming 80 books per student by 460 students; library furniture; and \$60K for librarian services.
- Total operating income was approximately \$1.2M, which reduced to \$820K after capital expenditures.
- Some of the initial expenses in the current year will not be recurring, given that they include set-up and first-time costs.
- All current technology wish-list items were included in the current budget proposal. A board member recommended audio/visual equipment for graduations to be included in the wish list.

Mr. Bayles called for a motion to accept the budget as presented. Such motion was made, seconded, discussion regarding marketing allocations was had (marketing budget included \$75K in the budget proposal), and the motion passed with no objections. The budget was approved.

5. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.