



Expand the Possible. Own the Future.

Thursday, March 18, 2021 @6:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 956 3677 1124

Password: =Utu0H

## AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of February Minutes
3. Continuation of Board Development Exercise
4. May 20, 2021 SUNY First year visit, Harlem
5. Pontiac Update: Virtual Tour (Video)
6. Board Committee Reports
7. Key Metrics
8. School Report
9. Adjournment

## **Trustees Present**

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**

## **1. Call to Order**

Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

## **2. Adoption of January Minutes**

Mr. Bayles moved to adopt the minutes from the previous board meeting. After a correction was proposed and adopted, all members agreed, and the minutes from the previous meeting (as amended) were adopted without objection.

## **3. Continuation of Board Development Exercise**

- All suggestions had been compiled into a document, which had been previously forwarded to all board members.
- All questions that come before the board should be considered.
- The school mentorship program should be improved to encourage involvement with the school itself.
- Redistribution of the by-laws and/or charter.
- Working on the strategic plan.
- Better utilization of the board's Google ShareDrive.
- The board should connect more and better with the community (teachers, students, and families), in order to become a part of the community. Particularly, to include in the board's agenda and purpose teachers' concerns.
  - Personal and professional development in order for board members to become a more useful member.
  - Improve communication and clarify roles, while understanding how the board can best serve the school's mission.
  - Bring the board together on long-term strategic planning, using the elements of that plan to create an annual operating plan. The goals for the operating plans should be included in open discussions.
  - Realign and clarify board and school administration responsibilities.
  - Improve interpersonal relationships between board members to improve working relationships.
  - A planning committee and strategic planning group should be formed and utilized.

#### **4. SUNY First Year Visit - Harlem**

- On May 20, 2021, SUNY will visit and inspect the Harlem property to assess various aspects of how the school works.
- There would then be a virtual meeting to assess the inspection results and/or answer questions that may arise.

#### **5. Pontiac Update**

- A video depicting the renovations and refit of the Pontiac building was displayed and discussed.
- All construction and upgrades were on schedule.

#### **6. Board Committee Reports**

##### **Finance Committee:**

- The organization worked nominally at the time.
- Reimbursement grants might be obtained that would allow an increase of per-pupil tuition. Those grants are, in part, to compensate for COVID-related expenses and preparations; the institution would have to invest the money, and then request restitution and reimbursement.

##### **Real Estate Committee**

- The owners of the Building 70 might reclaim the building for their own purposes, therefore the Academy might not be able to utilize it much longer.
- The Harlem property renewal right would protect Academy utilization until summer of 2023.
- A market study would allow the Academy in assessing comparative advantages in other areas, both surrounding and beyond Harlem.
- The board would further consult and decide how to proceed.

### **Academic Committee:**

- The next target date to begin in-person schooling was April 19th, 2021.
- Summer school, teacher recruitment, and Springboard had been previously discussed within the committee.
  - Many children would not be advanced in grade due to their poor performance; approximately 10 to 15 students.
  - The student population showed extreme depression.
  - Random testing would soon resume.
  - Some of the grant monies could be utilized to supplement student programs.

### **Development Committee:**

- In February, the Academy received \$5,410 in donations.
- The Seventh District Foundation would allow a grant application, which in previous years had been of \$10k.
  - PWC would allow a grant application, which could be of \$50K.
  - There were efforts to reach out to smaller entities and stores and request grants for the Academy's benefit.
  - The fundraising goals for the board was of \$250K. Every board member should contribute efforts and ideas into how to achieve this goal.
  - The committee recommends the following courses of action to improve the Academy's development, which would be considered and discussed at a later time more in-depth.
    - Quarterly newsletter, for information and promotion, to include donation options such as Amazon Smile link.
    - Enhance the Development and Fundraising content of the Academy's website.
    - Conduct a joint fundraiser between the Academy and the Board, including local and e-commerce entities.
- Mr. Bayles recommended, and there were no objections, to join the three courses of action into one plan. After a motion to approve the course of action, without objection, the plan was accepted and would be implemented.

## **7. Key Metrics**

- Key Metrics pertaining to the Board and SACS Dashboard were discussed and reviewed.

## **8. School Report**

- The South Bronx School began hybrid education, and within 4 days, the CDC and Health Department closed the school due to positive COVID tests / results.
  - For the Harlem Campus, 63% of students chose hybrid instruction method.
  - The staff meets at least weekly to plan all necessary operations and ensure student and staff safety.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.