

12/18/19 70 E. 129th Street

Trustees in Attendance: Richard Bayles, Susan Reid, Gretchen Pusch, Peter Low,
Amanda Low
Video Conference: Jonathan Stearns, Eileen Niedzwiecki, Tanya Hoffer
Moore
Staff in Attendance: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO), Ms. Chesney (Harlem Principal), Ms. Singletary (South Bronx Principal), Ms. Johnson (Harlem Vice Principal), Mr. Smith (Dean South Bronx), Ms. Fisher (Counselor Harlem), Natalia Perez (Director of Communications), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance), Nidia Evangelista (Director of Operations)

Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 6:13 pm

As the first order of business, Mr. Bayles invited a motion to vote on the nomination of Justin Tolliver as a new Board member. The motion was made by Mr. Bayles, seconded by Mr. Low and passed unanimously. Mr. Bayles then asked if there were any changes or additions to the November Board minutes. There being none, a motion was made by Mr. Bayles to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Low, and passed unanimously.

Committee Reports

a) Academic Committee- Mrs. Low, chair of the Academic Committee discussed the need to bring more professional development opportunities to the school. Teach for America and its associated costs is one program that is being considered by the committee. Several faculty members are teaming up with other successful charter schools to see what ideas can be adapted for use at Storefront Academy.

In line with the strategic plan, Dr. Garcia spoke about identifying target goals for teachers and utilizing an assessment committee to measure progress and hold them accountable. She also suggested consideration of the cost effectiveness of assigning one head teacher fully oriented to the "Storefront" methods in each classroom instead of the current model of two teachers per classroom.

b) Real Estate Committee- M. Low reported that the 501c3 decided to renegotiate the rent for the Harlem Campus and drop the rate lower for the rest of the fiscal year, creating a savings

of \$95,000. He also noted that Chris Moore stated there is still time for the charter school to express an interest in purchasing the buildings and the 501c3 would take an offer under advisement.

Finance Report

Mr. Bayles offered a thorough review of the financial report with the board, making points about the budget, projections, and money that is expected to be received through fundraising efforts. He also spoke about projections after June 30th, including salaries accrued, classroom expenditures and other costs.

Dr. Garcia reported that the school is working on finding its own service providers, such as speech therapists. Directly hiring these specialists vs. having them paid through city grants would result in reduced expenses. Mr. Bayles commented that administrative and support staff costs are being evaluated along with deficits in Harlem operations. Increasing enrollment in Harlem is a priority in order to reduce or eliminate the deficit.

School Report

Board members talked about the cost of the South Bronx building and the possibilities associated with expansion. Dr. Garcia has met with the landlord to discuss the buildings next door which include a parking garage, church and laundromat. She discussed the potential of converting the buildings next door into more classroom and office space to accommodate more students or add a middle school.

Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. So moved by Mrs. Pusch, seconded by Mr. Low, and approved by all. The meeting was adjourned at 7:49pm.