

9/19/19  
609 Jackson Avenue Bronx, NY 10455

Trustees in Attendance: Ray Cameron, Gretchen Pusch, Richard Bayles, Amanda Low, Peter Low, Eileen Nidzwiecki, Susan Reid (Video Conference) Jonathan Stearns

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance) , Dignorlyn Poweriet (Director of Development), Ms. Taleema Chesney (Principal Harlem), Ms. Jennifer Johnson (Assistant Principal Harlem), Ms. Carol Singletary (Principal South Bronx), Ms. Yoselyn Fernandez (Assistant Principal South Bronx) , Natalia Perez (Director of Communications) Carlo Schiattarella ( Project Manager for Schoolhouse Project)

Board Nominee: Noel Acey

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The Board Meeting began with the introduction of a Prospective Candidate named Noel Acey She spoke about her background, where she is from, her work history Mrs. Acey explained that her son had completed his senior internship at the Storefront Academy in 2016. She added that he has an extreme love of sports and currently works in Mass Communications now as an adult.

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Mr. Cameron called the meeting to order at 6:14pm  
Mr. Cameron asked the Board members to approve the minutes  
All agreed.

### **School Report:**

Dr. Garcia said we have a renewal process and a public hearing scheduled on October 15th at 5:30 pm.

She said that she wanted to encourage everyone to come and show support

Dr. Garcia then said, regarding the test scores, our test scores have dropped since last year, but that they outscored the district.

She added that the surrounding schools have scored comparable to us and part of the issue is that our school was not able to grow organically because we took in so many new students.

Dr. Garcia said that we have adopted a new reading series called Journeys in which we are able to screen the children at the beginning of the school year and put services in place for them. When we tested in 2018 we only test 30 students, Now we tested 100 students.

Dr. Garcia also told the Board that we have made our accountability goals. She said that the school has not had to exceed 2 suspensions over the school year, and our attendance is great.

She also mentioned that the teachers and staff have come up with a really concrete plan to improve test scores. She said that this school is much bigger with 350 students and so much different.

Ms. Chesney briefly spoke about the Principal's report at the Harlem school and discussed the opening of the new Harlem School.

Overall she said that the staff and students are excited to be back in Harlem and a lot of people within the community are happy that we are back as well.

Ms. Chesney also added that every small step is a success, and that the parents are open to communicating. She said that the hardest part is getting the parents to follow through and be consistent, but that the school is offering a lot of parenting advice and support. She and the staff are working hard to build strong relationships with parents and within the community.

Mrs. Reid asked, "Do you think if we had parenting classes we would have participation?"

Are there any additional resources we can provide to you to help you with?

Mrs. Nidzwiecki said, "You're a gift to children and if you have parenting classes this can help."

Mrs. Acey added that we should bring it back to the parent support groups  
She said that It starts with structure, meeting and support for parents.

Ms. Singletary briefly spoke about the Principals report and explained how the South Bronx School has increased in enrollment and overall has had a great start to the new school year.

She said that we have to have an action plan and one thing we have learned is that when so many new children came in, other children had to adjust, some felt displaced because It's much different now. We have to teach new students about our core values like respect.

Mrs. Singletary said, "We want an upturn on the children's trajectory because some children deal with social and emotional issues."

We are working with each grade level, building their skills and strategies, but overall we are doing great!

Mr. Cameron asked Mr. Wolf to discuss the Finances.

Mr. Wolf said that overall cash flow is good.

He said the maximum number of students allotted for the South Bronx is 345

Some expenses were used to do renovation work in Harlem.

Additional expenditures included new books, teachers salaries, and creating more office space in the South Bronx Building.

Mr. Cameron requested that the Board move into Executive Session.

Mr. Cameron officially called to end the Board Meeting at 7:26pm