

2/27/20  
70 E. 129th Street

Trustees in Attendance: Amanda Low, Peter Low, Richard Bayles, Gretchen Pusch,  
Justin Tolliver Video Conference: Noel Acey, Jonathan Stearns  
Staff in Attendance: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance), Ms.  
Chesney (Principal-Harlem), Ms. Johnson (Assistant Principal- Harlem) , Ms. Fisher  
(Counselor-Harlem), Ms. Singletary (Principal- South Bronx), Mr. Smith (Dean- South  
Bronx) , Natalia Perez (Director of Communications)

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### **Executive Session**

Mr. Bayles asked for a motion to start the meeting in an executive session. Mr. Low motioned to go into executive session, Mrs. Low seconded the motion, and all agreed in favor to go into executive session. Executive Session was called at 6:10pm

### **Minutes**

Mr. Bayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January Board meeting. Mr. Low motioned to go over the minutes. Mrs. Low seconded the motion, and all agreed in favor to approve the minutes.

### **Vote to Review and Adopt Internet Safety Policy for SACS- Harlem**

Mrs. Low motioned to approve the internet safety policy for SACS-Harlem. Mr. Low seconded the motion, and all agreed to approve the internet safety policy for SACS-Harlem.

### **Board Committees Report**

#### Finance committee

Mr. Bayles said our finances are in very decent shape.

#### Real Estate Committee

Mr. Bayles said that the Harlem building will be a suitable facility for grades K-5, if we are able to recruit up to 145 children. Dr. Garcia said that we are bringing back most of the students for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Low spoke about expanding the use of the buildings on Jackson Avenue, including talks about construction costs and renovations.

Mr. Low added that the committee is currently working on negotiating the best financial rental cost and also the cost of renovations for the school.

Dr. Garcia said that time is of essence in these matters. Mr. Low said that the committee would be meeting again and bring another update to the board once a proposal was finalized.

#### Academics Committee-

Mrs. Low discussed concerns of student attendance and winter map testing scores with the board. Ms. Singletary spoke about a new program that was introduced to teachers and how a learning curve could have possibly affected scores, she also mentioned that new teachers were added and additional coaching is being provided. Dr. Garcia said she spoke to students about their scores and the need to do well on the next ELA and Math exams scheduled for the end of March and April.

Dr. Garcia spoke about the Harlem school preparing for their SUNY visit. The importance of having great attendance, high scores, and continuing to provide great resources for students including the care closet and counseling. She also told trustees about incentives for the classes and students that have the highest scores on their exams. There will be a focus on phonics, core knowledge, and systemic awareness for the third grade.

Dr. Garcia told the board about a young men's mentoring group that will be starting on March 6th at 9:00am.

Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Pusch seconded the motion and all agreed to adjourn the meeting at 7:43pm.