



Board Meeting 5/21/20

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

ATTENDEES (via Video Conference)

Trustees: Richard Bayles, Gretchen Pusch, Jonathan Stearns, Peter Low, Amanda Low, Susan Reid, Eileen Niedzwiecki, Justin Tolliver, Noel Acey, Tanya Hoffler-Moore

Staff: Dr. Nicole Garcia (CEO), Stuart Wolf (Director of Finance), Ms. Chesney (Harlem Principal), Ms. Singletary (South Bronx Principal), Matthew Tiwary (Data Manager), Natalia Perez (Director of Communications)

AGENDA

1. Governance Committee Report

Mr. Stearns suggested increasing the number of board members. The following candidates were recommended: Amanda Jordan Libner and Lauren Maris.

2. Minutes

Mr. Bayles motioned to approve the April minutes, Mrs. Low seconded the motion; all agreed unanimously.

3. Committee Reports: Real Estate, Education, Development, Finance (April Report), Executive Committee discuss merging with Planning Committee.

Real Estate Committee Report- The rental fees for the building in Harlem were lowered, and will save the school over \$200,000. Due to poor maintenance of the 70 building, going forward SFACS will now control maintenance functions.

A revised lease for the 615 building was negotiated with Real Estate Committee members and should be available soon.

Dr. Garcia reported that a laptop was stolen from the South Bronx School, therefore a police report is currently being filed. Dr. Garcia has been working on finalizing the certificate of occupancy for the 70 building.

Academic Committee Report- Mrs. Low, Mrs. Pusch, and Mr. Bayles held a meeting with the Leadership team to discuss preparedness for the upcoming school year. Dr. Garcia reported that a survey was being implemented to determine parents' willingness to return in the fall.

4. Election of Officers- Mr. Bayles proposed the following slate of officers:

Mr. Bayles as Chair, Mr. Stearns as Co Chair, Mrs. Niedzwiecki as Secretary, and Mr. Low as Treasurer. Mr. Bayles asked all those in favor of the slate as nominated to please show hands. All agreed unanimously to elect the slate of officers.

Mr. Bayles motioned a resolution to merge the planning and executive committees together. The executive committee will take over the planning committee functions. Mrs. Pusch seconded the motion. All agreed unanimously.

5. School Report- Dr. Garcia emphasized the importance of planning for the upcoming school year amidst Coronavirus concerns. Any students who have a promotion in doubt are encouraged to attend summer school. Principals have put together a career day to incentivize students and 5th grade students who are preparing for graduation.
6. Budget Discussion- Mr. Low motioned to support management paying out vacation for all 12 leadership employees instead of letting their days roll over. Mrs. Reid amended the motion by proposing employees have the option to either choose vacation time off days or the paid up option. Mrs. Pusch seconded the motion. All approved unanimously. Mr. Bayles suggested holding a separate meeting discussing the budget in more detail.
7. Executive session began at 7:27pm