

## **Minutes of the Academy of the City Board of Trustees Meeting of February 23, 2016**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of the Academy of the City Charter School (the “School”) was held on February 23, 2016 at 5:00 pm at the School (31-29 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Woodside, NY 11377).

Notice of the meeting was given by submitting a notice electronically to the Queens Courier newspaper, posting the meeting notice on the school’s website and posting a paper notice outside the school building at Academy of the City Charter School, 31-29 60<sup>th</sup> Street, Woodside, NY 11377.

The following members of the Board were present: Nancy Sills (Chair), Angela Howard, Steven Zimmerman, James Traub, Pily Quintanilla (PCO Co-Chair), Ernest Brooks, Harry Elish, Michela Nonis (Secretary).

The following staff members and visitors were present: Richard Lee (Principal).

### **Board Talk**

The first Board Talk took place from 5:00 to 6:00 pm.

Teachers were invited to come to the Board Talk and over 7 teachers attended.

Silvana Vasconcelos, former board member, and now the Director of the Urban Horizons Early Childhood Discover Center at WHEDCO, an Early Learn/Head Start program in the South Bronx, spoke about Family Literacy and Early Childhood Education. Ms. Vasconcelos addressed the many types of literacy that can help to build a bridge between school and home and spoke of the importance of making each family feel that they are integral part of the community. Adult Education, Parent Education, Parent and Child Interaction, Children’s Language and Early Literacy were all discussed. There was a lively discussion after the talk centering around the need for a similar program at Academy of the City Charter School. The teachers were unanimous in asserting that a family literacy program would enhance the quality of the children’s and the entire school community’s experience at the school.

The board meeting began at 6:00 pm.

### **Ratification of December Minutes**

NS called the meeting to order and called for a vote to ratify the January 19, 2016 minutes. SZ so moved, JT seconded and all were in favor.

### **Resolution with Respect to the Purchase of Ceiling Fans**

HE called for a motion in favor of purchasing ceiling fans for the classroom. JT so moved, AH seconded and all were in favor.

### **Resolution with Respect to the School’s Banking Relationship**

HE then called for a motion in favor of moving the school’s banking relationship to JPMorgan Chase. MN so moved, AH seconded and all were in favor.

The board then moved to executive session in order to discuss an employee matter. The business of the executive session being concluded, the board moved back into public session.

### **Ratification of the Principal’s Contract**

MN called for a motion to ratify the Principal’s contract, JT so moved, NS seconded and all were in favor.

### **School Report**

RL gave the school report.

- Caren Leslie, the learning specialist, has been promoted to Assistant Principal for grades K-2.
- The school has received over 900 applications and the expectation is that the final number will be around 1,200.
- Outreach to Woodside Houses has taken place. Outreach at Queensbridge will take place soon.

- RL is following up on a proposal for a summer program at Academy of the City through the Boys & Girls Club.
- RL is also looking into School Food and service of hot lunch and breakfast for Academy of the City students.
- An after school arts program with music and dance will likely be added to the current after school offerings.
- A Project Based Learning committee has been established to look into PBL practices at the school and report its findings.
- RL will be attending the SXSWedu Conference in Austin, Texas from March 7-10 and will attend sessions with Buck Institute representatives who will be there. There are possible future PD possibilities at Academy of the City with this organization.

The business of the public session being concluded, NS moved to adjourn, JT seconded the motion and all were in favor.

The next board meeting will be on March 15, 2016 at 5:00 pm.