

Academy of the City Charter School  
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
On Tuesday, July 31, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.  
At Academy of the City Charter School, 36-14 12th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106

Present

Richard Welles, Chairperson  
Angela Howard, Vice Chairperson  
Steve Zimmerman, Treasurer  
Nancy Sills, Secretary  
James Traub, Trustee

In attendance

Richard Lee, Principal  
Desiree Galashaw, Assistant Principal  
Dennis Schroeder

Notice was given of the meeting by submitting a notice electronically to the Queens Courier newspaper, posting the meeting notice on the school's website, and posting a paper notice on the bulletin board at Academy of the City Charter School, 36-14 12th Street, Long Island City, New York 11106.

RW called the meeting to order. He asked for a moment of reflection on the passing of Jim's father and Richard's mother in law.

RW stated that the board, the administration and the entire AoC community should be proud for having stood up a school and for the successes of its first year as well as facing its challenges. As for the future, he quoted from Samuel Becket: "Try, fail, try better, fail better."

NS moved to waive the reading of the minutes of the June 2012 annual meeting and to approve the minutes as written. RW seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous consent.

AH and SZ gave the report of the facilities committee. The options presented by Marnier Architecture for the proposed collaboration with Boys and Girls Club of Queens were presented. Three options have been developed, one of which has an integrated building one with a stand-alone approach, and another which is atop the pool. Discussions were held regarding flow, shared and separate space which allowed the architect to come up with these schedules. A further list of questions is to be developed for the Architect. Additional options continue to be pursued to ensure that we have a strategy in place before the lease renewal deadline. There is a planned meeting of the finance committee on August 13 at 10:00 a.m. The education committee did not meet this month, but may plan to have a meeting on the 13th as well. The Corpus Christi

building is still in play. DOE has not yet moved on it. San Rafael might be an option for a year, although it is out of the district. The OWN Foundation will look into it.

There was no teachers' report given.

The PCO is proceeding with the plan to adopt uniforms by which families purchase shirts and patches to be sewn on by the families. The OWN Foundation has donated shirts and patches to the PCO. SUNY has been consulted regarding the Charter and has preliminarily indicated that the revision to the dress code is a non-material revision to our charter; SUNY is consulting with its legal department. Gently used shirts can be repurposed for younger children. The PCO has a meeting schedule, with a fundraising component. They will be present for the open house for new families.

The report of the finance committee has been deferred until the August board meeting. The Auditors have begun compliance testing. The school will be receiving a donation from scholastic. A conflict of interest receipt form will be sent to board members with regard to the conflict of interest policy.

RL gave the school report. The school is close to fully enrolled. There are 3 or 4 additional children to be enrolled before AoC reaches full enrollment. On the second grade wait list AoC is moving to out of district children. There are just a couple missing. The reconciliation with ATS for last year resulted in AoC having to give back some money, but not a significant amount. AoC is enrolling children on ATS system now. The grouping of classes is still to be done. Student retention rates will be more clearly defined by the second week of school, but outreach is ongoing to determine which families are returning. With regard to curriculum review, DBukantz did a great job putting together books of the curricula that had been developed by the administration and the teachers last year and creating pacing guides as to where the curriculum should go for next year. DGalashaw will be reviewing the pacing guides and the spread sheets that are now more "user friendly" and arranged on a month to month basis. The curriculum documents will go to the teaches during the third week of August so they can look at it before they come back. With regard to additional staffing, the school has retained Dennis Schroeder to consult on technology and implementation of the technology curriculum. The school will be hiring an additional administrative assistant to help Angela in the office. The classrooms will be used as the primary space for children's issues next year. There is a small space where the counselor and special ed coordinator will work. The school is preparing an annual report on financial issues and student achievement. The deadline has been extended to August 15. A letter is being written to send to everyone who donated to the school last year to continue a fundraising initiative. With regard to afterschool, there are two options. The NYJTL will run a program for 30 children at \$1,000 per child. Some of the cost will be offset by fees paid by students. There is no DYCD funding for next year. NYJTL is looking into a governor's grant. The other option

is the Boys and Girls Club, but their board won't agree to cut the cost for a dedicated AoC program. However, any child can attend the Boys and Girls Club programs for \$25 per year. RLee stated that he did not view busing kindergarten and first graders to the Boys and Girls Club to participate in their general programs to be a good option for those young students. The only children that he felt it was appropriate for would be second graders. He is looking into an option where up to 30 kindergarten and first graders would have an afterschool program at the school (with fees from families, based upon a sliding scale depending upon free and reduced lunch status) would help offset the cost to the school. The second graders would have the option of attending the Boys and Girls Club and the school would look into arranging for bus service for those children.

SZ moved that during the 2012-13 school year that AoC not have an afterschool program funded by AoC on site. RW seconded the motion. There was further discussion of the motion and the various afterschool options. The vote was one in favor and three in opposition to the motion, with one board member not participating in the vote. The motion was defeated. RLee was requested by the board to present options for an on site after school program for the board's consideration at the August meeting.

During the summer 5 teachers attended responsive classroom workshops. Further professional development on behavior issues is planned. An orientation for volunteers who wish to work at the school is being planned by DGalashaw. AoC is likely to receive a book donation from Scholastic. Revised options for food service will be investigated in connection with moving to a new facility.

The board went into executive session to discuss the ongoing collective bargaining negotiations with the UFT. There were no votes taken. The board concluded its executive session and resumed the open meeting.

After discussion, NS moved to table further discussion of the contract between AoC and the OWN Foundation until the August meeting with the CFO to deliver a report before then to the finance committee on the school's finances and ability to pay the requested fee increase. AHoward seconded the motion and it was passed by unanimous vote of all non-interested board members. (RW and SZ did not vote). The meeting of the finance committee is scheduled for August 13, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. at AoC.

The business of the board being concluded, NS moved to adjourn the meeting. RW seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

The next board meeting, is scheduled for August 28, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at Academy of the City Charter School, 36-14 12th Street, Long Island City, NY, 11106.

Respectfully,

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Nancy Sills, Secretary  
Dated July 31, 2012