

Academy of the City Charter School Minutes of the Board of Trustees

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of The Academy of the City Charter School (the "School") was held on May 27, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. at the School (31-29 60th Street Woodside, N.Y. 11377)

The following members of the Board were present:

Richard Welles, Nancy Sils, James Traub, Angela Howard, Steve Zimmerman, Harry Elish, Jessica James.

The following staff members and visitors were present:

Richard Lee (Principal), Desiree Galashaw (Asst. Principal) June Schwartz (OSP), Dorothy Bukantz (AoC Staff), Emily Kotsaftis (PCO) and Ana Vasquez (scribe)

April Minutes

Nancy Sils moved to waive the reading of the April minutes and approve the minutes as written. Richard Welles seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

PCO Report

Emily Kotsaftis gave the PCO report. The last PCO meeting (5/6) was well attended. PCO meeting included Kindergarten teachers giving a presentation for parents. Eunice Vanaarde-Goje gave an overview of the City Council hearing on Charter Schools. Teacher Appreciation week was a success; school organized a free smoothie and juice truck for staff and provided staff with tote bags. PCO dues have been collected from 56% of parents. PCO Board elections are coming up. Parents will participate in a popular vote for the following PCO Board member positions -- Co-Presidents, Co-Class Parent Coordinators, Co-Communications Coordinators). Candidates may speak at next PCO Meeting (6/3).

Finance Report

(Exhibit A is the May 2014 finance package prepared for the board by the CFO) Harry Elish, chair of the Finance Committee, gave the finance report. School budget will be discussed in next board meeting (6/23). A 3-4% surplus is expected, numbers are consistent with increased enrollment and staff. There is flexibility in the budget because of the surplus to allocate funds for staffing positions being considered for next year. At a finance committee meeting just before the board meeting, with Digant Bahl in attendance, the committee gave approval to a preliminary budget for next year. The proposed budget will be presented to the board at the June meeting.

Open School Report

(Exhibit B is the OSP report distributed to the board in anticipation of the meeting). Steve Zimmerman gave the Open School Project report. On behalf of OSP he attended City Council hearing on Charter Schools (5/6). There was a great deal of testimony given by others disapproving of charter schools. SZ spoke on behalf of independent charter schools as representing the best in innovation and entrepreneurial spirit in education. There was a strong presence of the Coalition of Community-Based Charter Schools at the City Council hearing.

School Report

(Exhibit C is the school report distributed to the board in anticipation of the meeting). Richard Lee gave the school report. Out of 106 new spots available for next year, 77 children have already been enrolled, 73%. School received over 1,000 applications for next year and a 90% re-enrollment rate from families.

Current enrollment is 275 students.

Staff has been hired for next year. New staff hires include an Art Teacher, Learning Specialist, 4th grade Lead Teachers, and a Kindergarten and 1st grade Assistant Teachers. Two school aides who will provide coverage to teachers and have other duties at the school will be hired next.

Staff will have the opportunity to participate in professional development run by GoMath in June and August.

School renovations are scheduled for the summer. The major renovations will be in the basement and will involve the construction of a staff room, a room for specialized learning and adult restrooms.

Results for recent ELA/Math tests will be partially released around June 10th. Full results will be available in July. Pearson is also currently doing field tests with AoC Students.

The School recently had a third year visit by its authorizer, SUNY. Strengths and areas for improvement were noted in the oral debriefing that followed the review. The official report from SUNY has not yet been received, however, the School has already taken steps to build on the strengths of the school and address the areas for improvement. Fundamentally, the plans involve a redistribution of tasks among the administration and hiring of additional personnel so that the educational leaders can engage in further collaborative work with the teaching staff to ensure that the curriculum is taught in the most effective way possible in keeping with the mission of the school.

NS moved that the meeting go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. RW seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. RL and DGalashaw were invited into the executive session. There were no votes taken during the executive session. The business of the board in the executive session being concluded, NS moved to return to the public session of the meeting. RW seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The board returned to public session. The business of the board being concluded, AHoward moved to adjourn. NS seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The next meeting of the board, which will AoC be the annual meeting, will be held on June 30, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.