

Minutes of the Academy of the City Board of Trustees Meeting of May 30, 2017

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Academy of the City Charter School (the "School") was held on May 30, 2017 at 5:00 pm at the School (31-29 60th 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 60th Street, Woodside, NY 11377.

The following members of the Board were present: Nancy Sills (Chair), Angela Howard (via video link), Rick Welles, James Traub, Sarah DeBlois (via video link), Harry Elish and Steven Zimmerman. The following staff members were present: Richard Lee, principal. Digant Bahl of ASNY was also present.

Chair Report

NS called the meeting to order and delivered the chair report (Exhibit A).

Report of the Middle School Task Force

Nancy Sills and Richard Lee, co-chairs, delivered the report of the Middle School Task Force (Exhibit B). NS thanked the entire Task Force, but especially the teachers and parent representative on the Task Force who did such excellent work and gave so much of their time -- Alan Nunez, Jing Jing Hu and Pily Quintanilla. NS noted that one of the themes that had emerged from the task force meetings and school visits was the importance and challenge of maintaining a unified culture between the lower school and the middle school, especially if the middle school is built on a separate location. RL explained some of the work of the task force in looking for space and the timing.

Ratification of the minutes:

[**Motion**] NS asked for a motion to ratify the minutes of the April 25, 2017 minutes, previously distributed to the Board; Exhibit C). AH so moved and HE seconded. All were in favor.

Finance Report:

HE and Digant Bahl gave the finance report. (The Finance Report and Budget for 2017-18 school year were previously distributed to the Board (Exhibit D). The finance committee had met prior to the board meeting and recommended approval of the budget for 2017-18. HE noted how well the school has been served by Digant and his team over the last year. He also noted that the school is in the enviable position of having sufficient additional funds to enhance the program and encouraged RL to come to the board to ask for funds for any initiatives or new hires he feel would enhance the school program during the upcoming year.

[**Motion**] There was one item to be added to this year's budget -- maintenance costs required on the school building in an amount up to \$100,000. RW moved to approve this additional item in the 2016-17 budget. JT seconded and all were in favor.

[**Motion**] With regard to investment of approximately \$225,000 in funds, DB recommended that they be invested in bank insured CD's. JT. so moved and RW seconded; all were in favor.

[**Motion**] After discussion at the finance committee, HE recommended reappointment of the school's auditors. While the same partner will be heading the audit, there was a complete change of his team last year so that there are fresh eyes looking at the school. JT so moved and SZ seconded; all were in favor.

School Report

RL gave the report (previously distributed to the board and attached as Exhibit E). AoC has been elected a Reward School by the State of New York. It is an honor that was given to only 18 charters in NYC and only one other charter school in Queens. The PBL program is continuing, and RL distributed a schedule of the Spring public products and invited the entire board to see them. He described the Third Grade project, which involved vignettes from history, mostly medieval, including backdrops, costumes, performances, live

music and different artifacts. He described the school's very high energy around the projects which now include increasing focus on diversity and social justice. This program will continue next year, with the goal of deepening the projects even further. RL also described as one of the highlights of the year, particularly for him, was seeing the graduates come back for alumni night. Children were so happy to be back at AoC, meeting with their old friends and teachers. The school is planning to continue alumni events indefinitely, though as the school grows the nature of the events may change over time. The school is also tracking by a survey keyed into AoC's vision how the children are doing over time. The results of the survey will be shared with the board.

Board Retreat

JT described the plan for the board retreat -- on Friday, June 9 an exploration of Core Knowledge, led by a representative of the Core Knowledge Foundation. Teachers and administration have been invited to attend. On Saturday, June 10 a discussion, of what excellence means for AoC, moderated by Monte Jaffe, founder of the Renaissance Charter School. In preparation for the retreat RL, JT, NS and SD visited the Icahn 2 school, which has a Core Knowledge curriculum. Jim's notes of that visit, previously distributed, are Exhibit F. Many thanks to Jim for organizing this important and exciting retreat.

Executive Session

NS asked for a motion to move to executive session to discuss the principal's review. HE so moved, RW seconded the motion and all were in favor. A discussion to award the principal a \$5,000 bonus was made in executive session. The bonus has not yet been paid, and will be voted on in open session during the June 9, 2017 annual meeting.

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

There was no further business discussed during the public session. The business of the public session being concluded, JT moved to adjourn, SZ seconded the motion and all were in favor. The next board meeting, which is the annual meeting, will be on June 9, 2017 at 4:00.