

Academy of the City Charter School

Board Meeting Minutes

November 27, 2012

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Academy of the City Charter School (the “School”) was held on November 27, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the School (36-14 12th Street Long Island City NY 11106).

Notice of the meeting was given by submitting a notice electronically to the Queens Courier newspaper, posting the meeting’s notice on the school web-site, 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

The following members of the Board were present:

Richard Welles, Steve Zimmerman, Angela Howard, James Traub, Nancy Sills and Silvana Vasconcelos

The following other staff members and visitors were present:

Richard Lee (Principal), Desiree Galashaw (Asst. Principal), Adam Hunt (Director of Operations), June Schwartz, Dorothy Bukantz, Angela Mane, and Sarah Hill (PCO).

Richard Welles called the meeting to order. He read part of the school’s mission. He then discussed the Sidwell Friends School in Washington, D.C., where President Obama’s daughters attend (as well as the children of other former Presidents). He noted that while providing one of the best educations in the country, it does not require any standardized tests, and quoted Thomas Dewey in saying “what the best parents want for their children, we should want for all our children.”

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board:

PRIOR MINUTES:

Nancy Sills moved that the board waive the reading of the minutes of the September 2012 meeting and the October 2012 meeting and that they be accepted by the board as written. James Traub seconded the motion, and the motion was unanimously passed.

Committee Updates

Development Committee Report

Nancy Sills and James Traub gave the report of the development committee. Letters shall be sent to all past donors thanking them and describing the board's latest fundraising initiative. Each board member was requested to, if at all possible, send out letters to five new potential donors. James Traub had brought in two visitors to visit the school. One visitor was Tony an employee from Blackstone. The other visitor was an employee from Grace Institute; Jessica James. They were both delighted with the school. Tony would like to bring volunteers into the school. Jessica would like to help in any way possible and would like James Traub and Richard Lee to meet with her boss. James would also like to bring in Jessica's supervisor with the hopes that she can connect the school with local businesses who can become potential donors.

Teacher's Report

There were no teachers present at the meeting and no teachers' report given.

Finance Report

In the absence of Digant Bahl, who was unable to attend the meeting, Richard Lee delivered the CFO's report. The report is Exhibit A hereto.

School Report

Richard Lee gave the school report. There are currently 146 students enrolled in the school. There is a wait list for only kindergarten of about 88 in all districts. There were 4 new children enrolled during the month; 3 in kindergarten and 1 in the 1st grade. 4 children have left the school in the past month. The school will have a Winter Concert on December 13th with 2 performances; 2:45 pm and 6:00pm. Picture Day will take place on December 7th. A Scholastic book fair will take place from 12/13-12/20. Teachers are in the process of completing the progress reports which will be mailed out to parents on December 18, 2012. Teachers are to be part of each and every committee that exists in the school, therefore all the committees need to be identified and include the teachers in them. Richard discussed that due to all schools in New York City being closed for an entire week due to Hurricane Sandy, the Board of Education is asking all schools to remain open during the Mid-Winter Break in order to fulfill the 180 day quota. Richard has decided since Academy of the City Charter School is scheduled to be open for 190 days vs. the mandated 180 days, the school will still fill a 180 day quota with an extra 5 days making it 185 days, therefore Academy of the City Charter School will remain closed for the Mid-Winter Break. Richard discussed that the idea of bringing down the days of school instruction from 190 to 185. Nancy Sills moved that the board adopt the resolution attached as Exhibit B, which authorizes the school to apply to SUNY for a charter revision shortening the school year to 185 days from 190 days. James Traub seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Parent Community Organization Report

The Halloween Party has been rescheduled to 12/01/12 and is now called "The International Party." A bake sale will take place on 12/13 during the Winter Concert. Fundraisers are being planned, such as mugs with the school logo and candy inside, t-shirts with the school logo, and a Scholastic book fair. They are also think of adding 2-3 other events during the winter. Surveys were sent out with questions asking what parents would like to see more of in the school. There have been a good amount of responses with parents asking to see more classroom enrichment and computer usage in the school. They are working on different methods of communicating school closures to the parents. They will have a PCO meeting on 11/28/12 and will discuss the need for parent volunteers for the different events that will take place in December. Richard will also be there to discuss homework and curriculum with the parents. They currently have \$1,600.00 in the PCO bank account. They are thinking of doing more fundraisers in order to purchase smart boards and help make the school a smart board friendly school.

Executive Session

Nancy Sills moved that the board go into executive session to discuss collective bargaining issues. Richard Welles seconded the motion, and asked that Richard Lee as well as AoC's attorney Franklin Moss be present. The motion was passed unanimously. During the executive session no votes were taken. The business of the board during the executive session being concluded, Nancy Sills moved that the board end the executive session and resume the public meeting. Steve Zimmerman seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.

Resumed Public Meeting

Upon resumption of the public meeting Steven Zimmerman expressed on behalf of the entire board profound thanks to Frank Moss, serving as pro se labor counsel for AoC, for the hard and excellent services provided to the school. All on the board concurred. The business of the board being concluded, Nancy Sills moved to adjourn the meeting. Angela Howard seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

The next board meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at Academy of the City Charter School, 36-14 12th Street, Long Island City, NY 11106.

Respectfully Submitted

Nancy Sills, Trustee
