

Attendance

Dorothy Bunkatz, AoC Staff

Harry Elish, Trustee

Angela Howard, Trustee

Jim Traub, Trustee

Richard Lee, Principal

Rick Welles, Trustee

Nancy Sills, Trustee

Steve Zimmerman, Trustee

Desiree Galashaw, Assistant principal

Ana Vasquez, Open School Project

Amanda Lefer, PCO

Catherine Espinosa, PCO

Digant Bahl, CFO

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of The Academy of the City Charter School (the "School") was held on September 30, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. 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's notice on the school website, and posting a paper notice on the bulletin board at Academy of the City Charter School, 31-29 60th Street Woodside, N.Y. 11377.

The following members of the Board were present:

Richard Welles, Chair; James Traub; Angela Howard (Vice-chair), Steve Zimmerman, Harry Elish (Treasurer), Nancy Sills (Secretary).

The following staff members and visitors were present:

Richard Lee (Principal), Desiree Galashaw (Asst. Principal), Dorothy Bukantz (AoC Staff), Amanda Lefer (PCO), Catherine Espinosa (PCO), Digant Bahl (CFO) and Ana Vasquez (OSP).

Rick Welles called meeting to order.

Angela Howard presented an update for education committee. The education committee had briefly met to discuss its role and establish expectations about testing data. The education committee will also create a mission statement by the end of the year. AH will have a full report available for the upcoming Board meeting on 11/18/14.

Amanda Lefer presented the PCO report. Report exhibited that PCO has "a lot of event dates lined up." First PCO event of the year is a family dance party scheduled for Friday 10/10. Other upcoming PCO events include the Fall Festival and Raffle and a Thanksgiving Pie sale. PCO board is currently preparing to plan a gala fundraiser in the spring. AH asked if a gala event "work for this population." AL said that PCO feels that a gala event would bring in more community support. AL mentioned that the PCO would like to tap into Board for resources and help (larger sponsors).

PCO's 501(c)(3) application status is currently on hold. PCO is waiting for counsel from Lawyers Alliance.

The first PCO meeting of the year was a success; PCO has great support from "strong class parents". Next PCO meeting is scheduled for Monday 10/6. PCO is also working on a workshop to address issues around racism. Workshop was discussed last year and the idea was well received by parents. Workshop is tentatively scheduled for the wintertime and may become a bi-annual event.

PCO introduced Catherine Espinosa. CE is a PCO member and “instrumental” in organizing upcoming book fair. CE mentioned that being part of the PCO was a way “to reconnect myself with the school.”

RW moved that the board go into executive session to discuss an issue of potential litigation and matters related to personnel performance and discipline. **[Note: The Minutes of the Executive Session are filed separately with the Secretary of the Board]**

The business of the board in executive session being concluded, NS moved that the board return to public session. HE seconded the motion and all agreed. The board returned to public session.

RL gave the school report (Exhibit A). At the present time, the school has enrolled 14 more children than the budget. Eventually the school anticipates that there will be 10 or 9 in excess of the budget. Most classrooms have 28 children; some have 29; one has 30. The school is looking for a learning specialist for grades K-2. The special ed coordinator left the school for personal reasons. The program is going well. RL and DG have been in every classroom one or two times to observe and do coaching. The preliminary data from math on lost ground over the summer is good. The school is starting a partnership with the Martha Graham company, a connection initially made by Board member Jim Traub. It will begin with a school-wide assembly and then will be a program developed with the school for the first graders. The new lighting is in place and the basement renovations complete.

HE gave the report of the finance committee. The audit committee (HE and NS) met with the auditors. Other members of the finance committee, RW and SZ and RL were also present in person and by phone. AoC is the first of their clients to finish the audit. The report was unmodified, however there are some issues that have arisen that will be addressed with the auditors.

SZ gave the OSP report (Exhibit B). OSP was invited to present at a seminar at Columbia Teachers College on the whole child. There was also the first meeting of the year of the Central Queens independent charter schools, which will be held at AoC.

The business of the board being concluded, AH moved to adjourn the meeting. NS seconded the motion, and the meeting was adjourned.