

Minutes of the Academy of the City Board of Trustees Meeting of April 19, 2016

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Academy of the City Charter School (the "School") was held on April 19, 2016 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), Rick Welles, Steven Zimmerman, James Traub, Michela Nonis (Secretary).

The following staff members and visitors were present: Richard Lee (Principal), D. Fedkowskyj, Dennis Schroeder (Librarian/Technology).

NS Nancy Sills called the meeting to order, welcomed the visitors and introduced D. Fedkowskyj to the Board.

Board Report.

NS gave the Board report. NS noted that AoC is a very special, safe and supportive place for every student and expressed her gratitude for all the hard work that the Board and the school Leadership undertake to make the school such a safe space for the kids at all times.

- Long term plan: there will be a draft proposal to discuss at the June retreat.
NS requested feedback from the Board on the proposal.
- The Fifth grade will be performing in a play based on the Children's March in Birmingham, Alabama in 1963, on May 10th at 9:15 am. Everyone is invited.
- Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week will be from May 2 to 6. The Board will participate in this event in some way. The PCO usually sponsors 3 days of the week and the school sponsors the other two. Initiatives include sponsoring breakfast and lunch, a smoothie truck, events like bowling. The Board will consider how to best participate and fundraise for the event.
- The May Board meeting will start at 4:00 pm. Fifth graders have been invited to share their thoughts on their experience at AoC and on applying to Middle School.

Overview of the updated School Library.

The board meeting took place in the updated school Library. NS introduced D. Schroeder, the Librarian at AoC, who gave the board and visitors an overview of the updated collection and new technology to which students have access at the school. The school collection of books has expanded to number over 4,000 and 97% of the books are new. The library has a few books in languages other than English. The new computerized system has increased circulation: each student can take out 2 books at a time and teachers use more books in the classroom. AoC has a subscription to the My Library NYC with the NY DOE. The school is allowed to check out books from the NYPL and order sets of books for one title. This includes each student being able to get a library card for the Queens' Public Library.

Library has been well funded this year including a very generous donation from the Traub Family.

An assistant will be hired for next year to help out with technology and the goal is to increase the use of e-books for students and teachers.

Ratification of the March Minutes

NS requested a motion to ratify the March board minutes as written. RW so moved, JT seconded and all were in favor.

School Report (previously distributed to the Board and attached as Exhibit A)

RL gave the school report.

- There are amendments to the budget for this Summer and for the next school year. Additional money, around 174K, will be coming in from the State. The amendments will total about 176K. Test preparation for next year will be 40K. The 6 Week Summer Program, run jointly with the

Boys & Girls Club, will cost 20K—so far 130 families have expressed interest and the cost to families will be charged on a sliding scale. The 20-week Family Literacy Program for Toddlers and Families will be approximately 14K. Arts based After School Programs for next year will cost 30K. Professional development on Project Based Learning will cost about 20K, including teacher compensation. An operations associate may be hired next year to support the Director of Ops and the school Leadership: cost 50K.

In addition a Family Literacy Project for the Elementary School Program will be 45K, funded through a possible grant that AoC has applied for. This initiative will take place if the grant is accepted.

The Board had no objections to the amendments, and NS noted that the Financial Committee had already approved them. The Board will vote on the budget during the June meeting.

- RL is talking to a nationally known organization for coaching the teachers on Project Based Learning next year. The PBL Committee will report to the Board at the May meeting.
- All AoC 5th grade students were accepted into a Middle School, mostly their first or second choice.
- There were over 1,400 applications to the Admissions Lottery. AoC is admitting two kindergarten classes. Priority was given to staff and siblings. There are 26 siblings and 1 staff child coming into the school next year.

OSP Report (previously distributed to the Board and attached as Exhibit B)

SZ gave the OSP report. OSP is continuing to work on a Middle School. Meeting with Boys & Girls Club and City Planning and Land Use attorney went well.

Executive Session

NS motioned to move to executive session to discuss a personnel issue. SZ so moved, RW seconded the motion and all were in favor. There were no votes taken during the executive session.

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

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

The next board meeting will be on May 17, 2016 at 5:00 pm.