

## Attendance

Harry Elish, Treasurer

Rick Welles, Chair

Steve Zimmerman, Trustee

Ernie Brooks, Trustee

Richard Lee, Principal

Desiree Galashaw, Assistant Principal

Nancy Sills, Secretary

Michela Nonis, Trustee

Adam Aberman, Visitor

Angela Howard, Vice-Chair

Amanda Lefer, PCO

Dorothy Bukantz, AoC Staff

Ana Vasquez, Open School Project

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Academy of the City Charter School (the “School”) was held on February 25, 2015 at 5:00 P.M. at the School (31-29 60<sup>th</sup> Street Woodside, NY 11377).

The following members of the Board were present:

Richard Welles, Chair, Steve Zimmerman, Harry Elish, Treasurer, Michaela Nonis, Ernie Brooks, Angela Howard, Vice-Chair and Nancy Sills, Secretary

The board noted that the January meeting had been cancelled due to an extreme snow storm. RW had checked with SUNY and was advised that since there was no business that could not be addressed at the February meeting, there was no need to reschedule the January meeting.

The following staff members and visitors were present:

Richard Lee (Principal), Desiree Galashaw (Asst. Principal), Dorothy Bukantz (AoC Staff), Amanda Lefer (PCO), Adam Aberman (Visitor) and Ana Vasquez (OSP)

RW called meeting to order, asking for a moment of reflection on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Selma march.

Education Committee: AH presented the Education Committee update. Recent Education Committee meeting had centered on discussing and planning middle school development. Committee is working on a presentation for community parents regarding middle school choice; presentation will be ready in the spring. Committee wishes to plan an “academic project of the school” and would be interested in hearing suggestions from teachers and parents. The committee had discussed projects focused on use of the library by the school community and a in-school gardening project modeled on the successful Green Bronx Machine.

PCO: Amanda Lefer presented the PCO Report. PCO is preparing for the upcoming gala scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. AL reports PCO is currently working on budget, timeline, floor plan and gathering donations for auctions. PCO estimates event will bring in between \$3,000 to \$9,000, depending on ticket sales. There was a discussion concerning the price of the Gala tickets and some options to ensure that the Gala was inclusive of all families in the school community. The next PCO meeting is on 3/2 after morning assembly; the meeting will feature a presentation concerning the peace curriculum.

School Report: (The Report that was distributed to the board before the meeting is Exhibit A). RL presented the School Report. Current enrollment is 358 students (7 students over budget). Special Education is at 7% of the population, which is commensurate with the budget. SZ discussed the school’s goals with regard to maintaining the percentage of ELL’s in the school population. RL pointed out that to

some extent, the drop in the percentage of ELL students is a result of the success of AoC's program supporting ELL's. A discussion ensued concerning outreach to immigrant communities. There was a discussion of whether the Board should consider giving preference to the ELL population and if ELL enrollment goes below a certain percentage.

AoC has received a NYPL grant for cataloging library materials; the grant will also allow school staff to have access to NYPL resources where school librarians will curate books on a particular subject matter that is being taught or the teachers can request specific books from the library. The books will be gathered together by the library staff and delivered to and picked up from AoC and can be used at AoC as long as they are required. The school will be investing approximately \$8000 in new materials and shelving.

RL has been working on an analysis of the various initiatives during the prior four years of the school as well as a proposed "middle school design" that will be presented to the Board on upcoming 3/24 meeting. Presentation will include a school plan with delineated progress over facility, curriculum, and staff.

AoC has started community outreach in preparation for upcoming school lottery on 4/15. School had an open house on 2/11 that was attended by over 40 families. Two more open houses have been scheduled for March and April. School is preparing for outreach at three day care centers located in the public housing communities of Queensbridge Houses and Woodside Houses, as well as mailing mailing information to more than 30 day care centers.

Finance Report. (The Finance Report distributed to the board before the meeting is Exhibit B). HElsh presented the Finance Report. Report exhibits that "the numbers speak to how well we're doing in the fiscal year." Finance committee is taking a preliminary look at the coming years in order to keep good facilities on a "fiscally viable" budget. Subject will be discussed at greater length during finance meeting in May.

Open School Project: (The OSP Report distributed to the board before the meeting is Exhibit C). RW presented the Open School Project Report. OSP is in the process of planning a retreat for the Board. The board will be consulted to find a date where all can attend. Retreat date needs to be confirmed with trustee Jim Traub. OSP noted that they are seeking a project manager for the upcoming charter renewal process to recommend to the school. A board discussion ensued concerning this new proposal by OSP.

OSP is continuing work on planning facilities possibilities for middle school. As part of the process, OSP is also planning an agenda for a middle school visioning session with members of the community and political leaders. First session scheduled for 2/26. Members of the board are invited to attend. OSP is also planning a second

visioning session with a larger group tentatively scheduled for 3/19 at 3pm. OSP will report to the board as to the substance of the visioning sessions. OSP and AoC are also participating in a lobbying effort with other Queens charter schools in Albany on 3/10.

There was a discussion of rent relief and various applications by AoC and other independent charters.

RW moved that the board go into executive session to discuss the charter renewal process, including student records and personnel review, and the collective bargaining agreement. AH seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. Adam Aberman joined the board during the executive session. There were no votes taken during the executive session. The business of the board during the executive session being completed, NS moved that the board return to public session. AH seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

There being no further business of the board during the public session, NS moved to adjourn the meeting. HElish seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The board adjourned until its next meeting on March 31, 2015.