

## 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

Julie Simonson, PCO

Alan Nuñez, AoC Staff

June Schwartz, Open School Project

Laura Epstein, Visitor

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Academy of the City Charter School (the “School”) was held on October 28, 2014 at 5:00 P.M. at the School (31-29 60<sup>th</sup> Street Woodside, NY 11377).

## **notice**

The following members of the Board were present:

James Traub, Angela Howard, Steve Zimmerman, Harry Elish, Nancy Sills, and Richard Welles.

The following staff members and visitors were present:

Richard Lee (Principal), Desiree Galashaw (Asst. Principal), Dorothy Bunkatz (AoC Staff), Julie Simonson (PCO), Ana Vasquez (OSP), Alan Nuñez (AoC Staff), June Schwartz (OSP), Laura Epstein (Visitor)

Rick Welles called meeting to order.

**Minutes** Nancy Sills moved to waive readings of August and September Minutes and approve the minutes as written. Angela Howard seconded motion. Motion was unanimously passed.

**School Report** Richard Lee presented the School Report. (Exhibit A) Report exhibited that current enrollment is 9 students over budget. School is preparing to start a teaching artist residency with the Martha Graham Dance Company for 1<sup>st</sup> grade students. 1<sup>st</sup> grade classes will also be part of a Lego Robotics program.

RL is engaging parents through “Coffee with the principal” meetings where he talks with parents about school curriculum; meeting followed by a Q&A session. 42 parents have participated in these sessions.

School will be assessing ELA/Math proficiency via Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) online assessments. NWEA test results will be available in November and will be used as a baseline score for accountability plan. Smartboards will be installed on 11/1. A convection oven will also be installed on 11/1.

Report also included a presentation by AoC staff member, Alan Nuñez. AN teaches 13 classes focusing on music and chorus. AN mentioned “people recognize the fact that we value music” and described some of the programs taking place in the school. Programs include Musical Explorers through Carnegie Hall, Orchestra of St. Luke’s, Music Memory through the Riverside Symphony, and Modern Band, a collaboration between the Berklee College of Music and the DoE. AN encouraged board members to visit his classroom. The board was very interested in Mr. Nunez’s presentation, and thanked him for attending the meeting.

**PCO Report** Julie Simonson presented the PCO report (Exhibit B). The recent PCO morning meeting was “overwhelmingly successful.” Around 50 people attended meeting and translation sets were available to parents.

First PCO event of the year, Family Dance Party, was successful; event collected “almost” \$1,000. Upcoming PCO events include Fall festival on 11/10, Thanksgiving pie sale fundraiser, ongoing until 11/26, and Spring Gala on 4/18. Gala will consist of a dinner, dance, and silent auction. PCO is organizing a gala committee to coordinate event as well as reaching out to Growing Up Green for advice.

PCO is organizing a racism/discrimination discussion group with parents. Group is scheduled to take place on March 2015. Trustees interested in attending can reach out to Co-President Amanda Lefer ([amandalefer@gmail.com](mailto:amandalefer@gmail.com)).

PCO is also taking requests from teachers for their top three books or educational tools as a gift for participating in the spring book fair.

**Finance Report** Harry Elish presented the Finance Report (Exhibit C). The Finance Committee will present a preliminary budget by January 2015 as well as a detailed analysis on May 2015.

Steve Zimmerman expressed concerns over “what effect will population increase will have on school culture.” Board discussed the measures that were currently in place to maintain the current school culture.

**OSP Report** RW and SZ presented the Open School Project report. RW has been discussing “summer program possibilities” with Desiree Galashaw. OSP is in collaboration with local charter advocacy organizations (C3S, NECSN, and the NYCCSC). OSP also invited Queens Borough president Melinda Katz to attend upcoming Queens Charter breakfast. Event will also be attended by NYCCS representative Melissa Katz and NESCEN representative Akua Hill.

AoC has entered into an MOU with the Variety Boys and Girls Club of Queens with regard to future space needs, including 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades for the 2015-16 school year and the middle school. MOU covers facilities lease as well as an RFP for a developer. With regard to upcoming charter renewal, OSP has received sample data from NESCEN and is in the process of creating outlines for a consultant. OSP will have more renewal updates to share in December.

**Executive Session** RW moved that the board go into executive session to discuss potential litigation and personnel review. NS seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. **The minutes of the executive session are separately filed with the Board Secretary.**

The business of the board during executive session being concluded, HE moved that the board return to the public meeting. AH seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed. The board returned to public session.

There being no further business of the board, HE moved that the board adjourn. JT seconded the motion, and it was unanimously passed.