



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

taking learning to new heights

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes March 16, 2017

Atmosphere Academy Charter School Building
22 Marble Hill Avenue
New York, New York 10463

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Mervin Burton
Mr. Alan Dillon
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.

Board Members Absent:

Father Thomas Lynch
Mr. Michael Lagas
Dr. Evan Powderly

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin J. Greene
Mr. Bryan Fryer
Mr. Simeon Stolzberg

Ms. Elisabeth Nash
Mr. Michael Livolsi
Mr. Nethaneel Cleary
Mr. Christian Roman
Mr. Ben Pah
Ms. Jane Tulley

At approximately 5:16PM the meeting was called to order by Mr. Jesse Greene.

With three board members present there was no quorum and no decisions were made at this meeting.

Mr. Greene led those present with the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of prior meeting minutes was deferred until the next board meeting.

There were no revisions to the agenda. The agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item 5.1. Board Meeting Dates

After discussion Mr. Colin Greene stated that the meeting date for April will be set later.

Agenda Item 5.2. Consulting Report.

Mr. Simeon Stolzberg reported on his activities. He discussed his work on using data to drive intervention, teacher support and development, lesson plan templates, setting expectations and accountability, planning for next year, and intervention and how that fits to classroom instruction.

He explained that classroom instruction needs to ramp up to match the intervention program to be most effective.

Mr. Burton discussed the need for teacher flexibility and how that can conflict with a need for more structure. Mr. Stolzberg explained that he is seeing more differentiation in the classroom and that is due to the new staff members that still need to develop experience.

He went on to discuss intervention and how teachers need to target classroom instruction to needs of the students. He also noted that intervention does not take away flexibility but can add to targeted instruction.

Mr. Colin Greene discussed certain teaching aids and how they work.

He also discussed how Mr. Stolzberg would be used in April and for professional development in the July and August timeframe.

Mr. Greene explained that improvement in ELA and math student performance has been uneven. Preparation for the math state test is underway. The achievement classes are getting concentrated work with focused activities on math and English.

Agenda Item 5.3. SUNY visit.

Mr. Greene discussed with the board the first year evaluation report and the SUNY benchmark. He explained how the school would be evaluated.

Mr. Pah explained how he was preparing the operations team for the visit. He is reviewing preparation of all documents, the building condition and spaces for the expected visit.

Ms. Nash, Mrs. Tulley and Mr. Roman explained the preparation in their areas of responsibility.

Mr. Stolzberg informed the board and staff to be reflective, acknowledge what had been done, areas that need improvement and expect more rigor on this visit.

Agenda Item 5.6. Finance.

Mr. Fryer went through the financial performance and condition of the school. He reviewed the accounts payable plan. He expected no cash pressures as we approach end of year.

Mr. Greene reviewed the contract status with the web designer.

Agenda Item 5.7. Student Achievement Report.

The results were discussed during board committee calls at an earlier date. Mr. Greene discussed how the report results need to get to teachers in a more timely manner. Also what achievement levels will get proficiency levels up materially in both math and English.

Agenda Item 5.8 Achievement Program and Agenda Item 5.9 Fund raising.

Since the cost of the achievement program was largely dependent on fundraising for full staffing, that was the focus item of this discussion. Mr. Greene reviewed his proposed grant submission with the board. The board discussed the thoroughness of the package and asked for some clarity be added on charts and tables in the proposed submission. They also suggested adding further explanation of the management system, financial controls and measurement system for the program funded a successful submission for a grant.. The board agreed to prepare a cover letter for the final submission.

Executive Session

A motion was made to move into executive session to evaluate particular employees and to discuss a real estate acquisition. The motion was adopted.

The board moved to return from executive session. The motion was adopted.

There was no new business and the board moved to adjourn.