



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

taking learning to new heights

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes April 13, 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.
Dr. Evan Powderly
Mr. Michael Lagas

Board Members Absent:

Father Thomas Lynch

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin J. Greene (Principal)
Mr. Bryan Fryer (MMJ LLP)

Mr. Michael Livolsi
Mr. Ben Pah (AA)
Ms. Jane Tulley (AA)

At approximately 5:16PM the meeting was called to order by Dr. Powderly.

Dr. Powderly led those present with the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda Item 3. Board Reports – Scheduling Board Committee Meetings

Dr. Powderly and Mr. Colin Greene discussed the joint board committee meetings that were held by phone preceding this meeting, on March 14, 2017.

Agenda Item 4. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made for the approval of October 2016, November 2016, December 2016 and January 2017 minutes of board meetings. A vote was taken and the motion was adopted.

Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of Agenda.

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

Agenda Item 6.1 Board Meeting Dates

The current board committee structure was discussed and left unchanged. There are three board members per committee. The committees are governance, finance and accountability.

Board terms were discussed. Mr. Greene, Father Lynch and Dr. Lagas agreed to new full 3 year terms.

Future committee meetings were planned for sequential Mondays at noon.

Board meeting dates of May 22 and June 20 were discussed and agreed to.

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

Agenda Item 6.2 and 6.3 SUNY Visit and Instruction Update

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the SUNY staff organization and the leadership. He discussed document requests from SUNY and benchmarking work to show how Atmosphere compares to other schools. Ms. Tulley explained teacher ranking charts and levels of teacher performance. She noted the use of the Danielson framework for teacher assessment. Reports were also sent to SUNY along with numerous other materials including teacher professional development, instruction decision materials, and curriculum materials.

Mr. C. Greene explained to the board how Atmosphere will be evaluated, including the NYS testing.

Mr. Greene and Ms. Tulley went through each of the assessment categories: accountability, self assessment, curriculum, quality of instruction, instructional leadership, and at risk student management.

They then reviewed the teacher performance. Atmosphere expects SUNY to observe 6 to 9 classes to draw their own conclusions and to interview selected teachers.

The board also expects to be interviewed and assessed.

Agenda Item 6.4 Advisory Board

The board discussed this idea and was supportive. It recognized the work load on the leadership for the school and stated that it wanted senior staff to lead these meetings to broaden experience and share workload. The board agreed to continue to explore this and delegate this to the governance committee for further development.

Agenda Item 6.5 Renewal of Board Terms

Trustees Powderly and Burton self-nominated themselves for new 3 year terms. The board approved these nominations.

Agenda Item 6.6 Approval of Lease

Trustee Greene reviewed the lease for 5959 Broadway with the full board. A presentation was made with key details shown. After review and discussion a motion was made to approve the lease and the motion was adopted.

Agenda Item 6.7 Approval of Contracts

Trustee Greene reviewed the contracts for the architect and engineer to design the school space with the full board. A motion was made to approve the contracts. The motion was adopted.

Agenda Item 6.8 Finance Update

Mr. Bryan Fryer reviewed the financial performance of the school for the month and fiscal year to date. The school had a surplus for the month and a small deficit for year to date operations of eight months. He also explained how the real estate support payments will grow next year over this year.

Agenda Item 6.9 Revised Complaint Policy

Mr. Greene reviewed the revised complaint policy for the school. A motion was made to adopt the new policy and that motion was approved.

Agenda Item 6.10 and 6.11 State Testing Update and Math Achievement Program

Mr. Greene and Ms. Tulley reviewed the math prep methodology, the use of acronym tools by students and state testing room structure including the need for 2 staff in each room.

Mr. Greene explained the 253 students took the ELA exam, 4 opted out and 3 were exempt due to their IEPs. 254 are expected to take the math exam.

Agenda Item 6.12 Fundraising

The school was informed that it has been awarded an unrestricted grant of \$30,000 by a private foundation to support its programs. This is an important first step to broader financial support.

Agenda Item 6.13 Admissions and Enrollment

Mr. Pah reviewed enrollment for next year.

Agenda Item 6.14 Hiring

Ms. Tulley reviewed the hiring needs for the next school year. The categories are earth sciences, math, health, English. New hires were also discussed.

The board moved to enter executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment and employment, of two particular persons. The motion was adopted.

The Board members voted to leave executive session.

Mr. C. Greene presented his self-evaluation to the board for their review and comment.

The Board then discussed the self-evaluation presented by Principal and completed their independent evaluations of him. Prior to commencing the discussion, Trustee Jesse Greene recused himself from the board, left the presence of the Board Members, and was not present for and did not participate in any discussion of the Principal's performance. Principal Colin Greene also left the presence of the Board for their discussion. Minutes were recorded in the place of Board Member Greene by Michael J. Livolsi, Esq., Attorney for the School. A discussion was held, with attendance and participation by only board members Dillon, Powderly, Lagas and Burton, after which Board Members Dillon, Powderly, Lagas and Burton completed written evaluations. Those present were only Board Members Dilion, Powderly, Lagas and Burton, as well as the School's attorney, Michael J. Livolsi, Esq.

The Board Meeting was concluded.