



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

Educating Your Bright Stars

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes December 20, 2017

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

Board Members Attending:

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

Dr. Michael Lagas

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Evan Powderly

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin J. Greene
Mr. Christian Roman
Ms. Katherine Tineo

Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Ms. Cheryl Sacco (by phone)
Mr. Ben Pah
Mr. Bryan Fryer
Ms. Jasline Rodriguez
Approximately 25 parents
and students

Agenda Item 1. Call to order.

At approximately 5:00PM the meeting was called to order

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

.The pledge of allegiance was led by board members.

Agenda Item 3. Public Comments:

The meeting opened with comments by parents and students about the importance of Atmosphere Academy to them and their education. They were very positive on the enrichment trips the school has enabled for the students this year. Other comments included how much the management and staff care about the children at the school, the teacher quality, the positive culture, and significant teacher time commitment. Parents liked the incentive system designed to craft behavior. In all over 10 parents and students made comments. On what the school could do better the parents asked for more advance notice of events at the school and for the school to open a high school so the children can stay in the Atmosphere culture.

At the conclusion of this session the parents and students departed.

Agenda Item 4. Revision and Adoption of Agenda.

There were no revisions to the Agenda.

By motion of the board to adopt the Agenda.

Vote Aye: A. Dillon, M. Burton, J. Greene, M. Lagas.

Nays: none

Agenda Item 5. Staff Introductions and RJC Operations

Ms. Jasline Rodriguez was introduced and she explained her responsibilities at the Riverdale Jewish Center.

There was a discussion between AA management and the board about the operations at RJC. All input was positive.

There was a discussion of attendance rates at the two facilities and a review of actions on attendance levels.

Agenda Item 6. Social Work

Mr. Roman reviewed the plan for social work across the school.

Ms. Tineo reviewed her background, her experience and her desire to make a difference.

Mr. Roman explained the effective bilingual family workshops run by Ms. Taneo.

Mr. Burton asked about the challenges in our student population and Mr. Roman explained them.

Agenda Item 7. Finance Update

Mr. Bryan Fryer reviewed the financial statements from AA's latest month of November. Topics covered included level of adoption of medical plans by staff, the student population levels and outlook, and the revised and improved forecast for the 2017-2018 school year.

The board discussed actions to drive an effective completion of the year including, expense management through the end of the fiscal year, recruiting of additional students and fund raising strategies.

Agenda Item 8. Atmosphere Video

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the "Welcome to Atmosphere" video prepared to show AA culture and mission. There was a discussion of how to use the video to promote the school.

Agenda Item 9. Director Updates

Mrs. Katherine Brennan gave a student learning department update. She covered the teaching and learning cycle, student data analysis, and teacher data analysis. She discussed expectations for student improvement year to year.

Ms. Nash discussed the developments in her special education area of responsibility. She explained the improved teacher management of student performance and overall success of the program. She also explained how her staff was using read 180 and math 180.

Mr. C. Greene how stronger teachers are coming to the school and how retention has also been improving. He is finding teachers with passion and motivation that is adding to school performance.

Mr. Roman next discussed developments in school life. He reviewed the data on suspension events by grade level. Certain incidents were discussed and explained to the board. Most severe cases were discussed.

Mr. Pah discussed operational issues. He discussed student recruiting, application processes, and a revised policy regarding applications.

He next reviewed his new strategy of building localized management of each facility. He then covered specific issues at each building.

Agenda Item 10. Motion to Enter Executive Session

At 9:00 PM the board moved to enter executive session to discuss pending contracts, legal advice regarding real estate, real property leases and personnel matters.

By motion of the board to enter executive session:

Vote Aye: A. Dillon, M. Burton, J. Greene, M. Lagas.
Nays: none

Agenda Item 11. Executive Session

Agenda Item 12. Motion to Return to Public Session

The board moved to return to public session **at 9:47PM.**

Vote Aye: A. Dillon, M. Burton,, J. Greene, M. Lagas
Nays: none

Agenda Item 13. Board Minutes

The Board moved to adopt minutes from September, October and November 2017.

Vote Aye: A. Dillon, M. Burton, J. Greene, M. Lagas
Nays: none

Agenda Item 14. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Agenda Item 15. New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item 16. Adjournment.

By motion of the board to adjourn at 9:55PM

Vote Aye: A. Dillon, M. Burton, J. Greene, M. Lagas.
Nays: none

Meeting adjourned.