



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

Educating Your Bright Stars

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes February 28, 2018

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

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Alan Dillon (joined at 4:12pm)
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. Bryan Fryer
Mr. Ben Pah
Ms. Cheryl Sacco (by phone)
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mr. Christian Roman
Mrs. Katherine Brennan (by phone)
Mr. Jonathan Shulman

Agenda Item 1. Call to order.

At approximately 5:06 PM the meeting was called to order by Dr. Lagas.

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Lagas.

Agenda Item 3. Board Reports

Mr. J. Greene reported on the Finance Committee and Governance Committee calls.
Mr. C. Greene reviewed the status of a new board member and Dr. Powderly.

Agenda Item 4. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda

There were no revisions to the Agenda and it was adopted.

By motion of the board to adopt the Agenda.

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

Nays: none

Agenda Item 6.1. 2018-2019 Benefits

Mr. Jonathan Shulman reviewed the medical benefit programs provided to employees using charts he prepared and distributed to the board. He noted that the cost of small group plans were rising 3% per quarter, 12 % per year. Due to Atmosphere's situation we should expect a 9% increase. This is cost increase driven by technology change and drug costs. He also reviewed the year to year gross cost since inception of the school. After discussion with the board he was instructed to work with Mr. C. Greene to develop alternative plans for the board and management to consider for the next fiscal year.

Agenda Item 6.2. Board Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were reviewed, minor changes suggested and approved as modified. Mr. J. Greene is to incorporate the changes and return them to C. Greene for sending to SUNY.

By motion of the board to adopt the December 2017 Minutes.

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

Nays: none

At 5:50PM the meeting broke so the Board could observe student talent performances.
The meeting resumed at 6:07PM.

Agenda Item 6.3 and 6.4. Finance and SPED Billing

Mr. Fryer reviewed the total number of students, the revenue outlook and the estimated year end results for the school. Recovery of SPED revenue that the school is entitled was noted as important to a breakeven year(w/o depreciation).

Ms. Nash reviewed her efforts for full compensation to support the SPED program. Dr. Lagas asked for weekly reports on her progress. Ms. Nash explained the process of qualifying each student for the program and recovery of costs of serving them.

The board asked about and discussed how to plan financially given the uncertain process.

Agenda Item 6.5. Enrollment

Mr. Pah updated the board on enrollment which now stands at 412 which creates a full time equivalent of 396 due to a partial year for new students. Mr. Pah explained his recruitment process and opportunities.

The board pressed for more success and prioritization of work on this topic.

Mr. Pah explained the high motivation of his operations staff.

Mr. Pah reviewed the number of students that qualified for free and reduced meals and how important this measure is to Atmosphere's student performance targets.

Agenda Item 6.6. Achievement Update

Mr. C. Greene briefed the board on the achievement scores and progress of students.

Mr. Burton asked how what else Atmosphere can do to drive score improvement. Mrs. Brennan reported on preparations and focus on ELA students and their readiness for testing. Mr. C. Greene explained the difficulty of starting new programs and pointed to continuing current efforts. The board discussed further achievement program options if financial resources allow.

Agenda item 7. No consent Agenda Items

Agenda Item 8 and 9. Executive Session

At 9:0PM the board moved to enter executive session to discuss real estate transactions, personnel issues and priorities.

By motion of the board to enter executive session.

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

Nays: none

Agenda Item 11. Return to Public Session

At 9:14PM the board to returned [ed](#) to Public Session.

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By motion of the board to return to Public Session.

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

Agenda Item 12. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Agenda Item 13. New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item 14. Adjournment

At 9:16PM the board moved to adjourn.

By motion of the board to adjourn..

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

Meeting adjourned.