



# Atmosphere academy

## Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 27, 2019

5:00PM to 8:00PM

Atmosphere Academy Charter School  
Meeting at 5959 Broadway  
New York, New York 10463

### **Board Members Attending:**

Mr. Alan Dillon  
Mr. Mervin Burton  
Dr. Michael Lagas  
Mr. James Spitzer  
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.

### **Board Members Absent:**

### **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Colin J. Greene  
Mr. Ben Pah  
Mr. Donvil Collins (Veekast)  
Mr. Bryan Fryer  
Mr. Daniel Alfonso (Veekast)  
Mr. Christian Roman  
There was no public representative present

### **Agenda Item 1. Call to order**

At approximately 5 PM Mr. C. Greene opened the meeting with the introduction of Mr. Collins and Mr. Alfonso. He explained the video work Veekast has done for Atmosphere. Veekast is based in White Plains. The videos are designed to explain the role of the school in educating its student population to the public, to vendors, to the community and to potential students and their families. The video shown explained the activities and educational opportunities provided by Atmosphere. Mr. Collins and Mr. Alfonso discussed their services. The board asked questions about how the videos would be used and asked about the length of the end product. Mr. Pah and Mr. Greene answered questions. Mr. Burton asked about survey data on how the school, school management and school leaders are viewed by students and parents. Mr. Spitzer asked about

feedback from alumni and teachers. The school leadership responded. The cost of the video services were discussed by the board and school management.

### **Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Lagas at 6:20PM.

### **Agenda Item 3. Board Reports**

No board reports were given due to time limitations.

Mr. Spitzer asked for the board agenda to be sent out 2 to 3 days before the meeting to aid in preparation.

### **Agenda Item 4. Comments from the Public**

There were no public attendees or public comments.

### **Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was revised to prioritize topics for board discussion.

### **Agenda Item 6.1. Finance Update**

Mr. Fryer reported on the financial performance of the school with focus on the surplus outlook for the school. He reviewed all financial reports including the Statement of Activity, balance sheet and the board dashboard of financial information.

He focused on the accounts payable projections and the loans needed to sustain the school. The long term trend for both was discussed. He then discussed liquidity metrics and how Atmosphere fared under that analysis.

Mr. Burton asked for attention to be paid to the liquidity metrics.

Mr. C. Greene discussed the budget for next year 2019-2020 with focus on revenue and expenses. He explained the number of teams, class size and need for teachers. He explained that some teachers would handle more than one subject.

Mr. J. Greene discussed a nearby charter high school budget. He reviewed its size, revenue and expenses and pointed out that there were no extraordinary expenses associated with running a

high school. So there were no inhibitors to Atmosphere's ambition to expand to provide a high school to the community.

### **Agenda Item 6.2. "Through Atmosphere" Video**

This was covered at the beginning of the meeting as described herein.

### **Agenda Item 6.3. Director Update**

Mr. Roman reported on medical issues with students and disciplinary actions taken since the last board meeting. He discussed staff actions to address these issues and comments from parents and students.

### **Agenda Item 6.4. Achievement Update**

Mr. C. Greene reviewed school grade improvement by showing charts with detailed results. He covered math and English progress. He noted progress in teaching methods. He also compared Atmosphere performance to New York State results, other charter schools and national results.

Mr. J. Greene described his observations of achievement classes.

### **Agenda Item 6.5. Admissions**

The number of student applications from the Atmosphere specific application and the Common application were discussed. Both are strong with a total of 700 applications for all three grades. A little less than 50% from the Atmosphere application and the Common application slightly more than 50% of the total. Applications are growing each year.

### **Agenda Item 6.5a. Facility Update**

Mr. C. Greene discussed expansion at Marble Hill and continuing concerns about TCO work by the landlord. Continuing HVAC issues at 5959 Broadway were discussed. Plans to resolve these issues were discussed.

### **Agenda Item 6.6. Renewal & Revision Update**

Deferred to future meetings.

### **Agenda Item 6.7. 2019-2020 Evaluation & Compensation**

Deferred to to future meetings.

### **Agenda Item 6.8. Board Membership**

Board member terms were discussed. Mr. Dillon's term is expiring and he expressed an interest in continuing.

Mr. Burton nominated Mr. Dillon to the board.  
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

A discussion of the need for a chairperson followed. Dr. Lagas was asked to servie for one year and he agreed.

Mr. Greene moved to appoint Dr. Lagas as Chairman.  
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

A discussion of recruitment of board members followed. It was suggested that members of the board seek out new board members who had educational experience and who could bring financial resources to the school. Ideas discussed included calling the charter center, approaching Teachers College, and seeking out others interested in charter school success.

### **Agenda Item 6.9. Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes from the February 2019 meeting were sent to the board before the meeting. They were adopted without revision.

Mr. Burton moved to adopt the minutes.  
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

### **Agenda Item 7. Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

**Agenda Item 8. Executive Session**

There was no executive session at this meeting.

**Agenda Item 9. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**Agenda Item 10. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Agenda Item 11. Adjournment**

AT 8:45PM the board moved to adjourn.

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