



# Atmosphere academy

## Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes July 09, 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. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.

### **Board Members Absent:**

Mr. James Spitzer

### **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Colin J. Greene  
Mrs. Katherine Brennan  
Mr. Bryan Fryer  
Mr. Christian Roman  
Ms. Elizabeth Nash  
Mr. Peter Markey  
No public in attendance

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

At approximately 5:02 PM the Board Chairman, Dr. Lagas, called the meeting to order.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dr. Lagas.

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

The Finance Committee meeting for July is scheduled after the board meeting so no report was given at this meeting.

There was no Governance Committee meeting this month.

There was no Accountability Committee meeting this monthly cycle. Dr. Lagas commented further on prior discussions that there should be data dashboards for school leaders tied to the Principal's annual targets.

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

There were no public attendees at the general meeting so no comments from the public.

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

There were no revisions to the agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 6.1. NYS Test Update**

Mr. C. Greene handed out a presentation summary of the NYS Test results for the board to review. He then reviewed significant results and trends.

For English the 6 and 7th grades continue to make significant improvements year to year. The school is approaching parity with the overall NY City results. Since the school district is way below the City results Atmosphere is doing significantly better than the district. For multiple choice percent correct are 63%, 61% and 65% for the 6th, 7th and 8th grades respectively. For constructed response percent correct are 68%, 76% and 77% for the three grades respectively.

The data for math was reviewed by class. Similar improvements in Math are happening. Percent correct for multiple choice questions are 68%, 57% and 63% for grades 6, 7 and 8 respectively. For constructed response the percent correct results are 48%, 55% and 49% for the three grades respectively. The Principal noted the team effort that created these very positive results. Mr. Roman explained how the team leads the students to keep up the pressure to perform. Mrs. Brennan discussed how certain teachers are making leadership contributions and are developing into great prospects for future leaders. She also explained how the approach used this year has put the right leaders in place from the start of the school year.

Dr. Lagas asked about when full data for the district will be available. Mr. Dillon asked about how these results would be seen by the authorizer. The board and the principal discussed these matters.

Further discussion followed regarding proficiency, how these results position the school for renewal and expansion.

### **Agenda Item 6.2. Financial Disclosure Forms**

The board then discussed the financial disclosure forms and submitted their forms and signed them for submission by Atmosphere.

### **Agenda Item 6.3. Cash Management**

Mr. C. Greene and Mr. Pah discussed how cash received from student and parents for trips, events and other reasons are managed and deposited in the bank in the school's accounts. Various security and process improvements were noted and others were discussed.

There was also a discussion of whether the school should or could pay for all events and therefore not take in any cash. The board's view was that the school was not in a position financially to take this step at this time.

The board supported continuing current practices and the steps taken for better security.

### **Agenda Item 6.4. 2019- 2020 Budget**

Mr. Fryer reviewed the budget for the coming school year with the board. The board discussed risks and uncertainties. The board then approved the budget.

Mr. Burton moved to approve the budget for 2019 – 2020.  
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote aye: Mr. Dillon, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Burton, Dr. Lagas.  
Vote no: none.

### **Agenda Item 6.5. SUNY Renewal/Revision Update and Other Matters**

Mr. C. Greene then discussed a request for SUNY that the loan program receive one more board review without Mr. J. Greene participation.

Mr. J. Greene left the room at 6:42PM. The board discussed the loan repayment schedule and structure. Mr. Dillon and Mr. Burton said they were comfortable with it.

Mr. Burton moved to approve the loan structure and repayment schedule.  
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote aye: Mr. Dillon, Mr. Burton, Dr. Lagas,  
Vote no: none.

Mr. J. Greene returned to the room at 6:54PM.

Mr. C. Greene commented on the preparation of the renewal application. He noted the state of preparation of the application, key sections, key points and areas of emphasis. Mr. Roman commented on discipline sections. Mrs. Brennan and Ms. Nash reviewed their sections. The goal is to describe efforts made to constantly improve programs to achieve the success the school has accomplished.

#### **Agenda Item 6.6. Board Meeting Minutes**

The June minutes were sent to the board before the meeting. There were no changes to the draft. The board moved to approve the minutes.

Mr. Burton moved to approve the minutes.  
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote aye: Mr. Dillon, Mr. Greene, Mr. Burton, Dr. Lagas,  
Vote no: 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**

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the June graduation process at Columbia University and noted possible improvement changes for the future.

Mr. C. Greene discussed staff awards and compensation. He discussed bonus criteria and how that has changed.

He noted that staff return rates for the fall are very high. This is very positive for the school.

There was a discussion of where graduating students went for high school.

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**Agenda Item 10. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Agenda Item 11. Adjournment**

At 7:55PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.

Mr. Burton seconded the motion.

Vote aye: Mr. Dillon, Mr. Greene, Mr. Burton, Dr. Lagas

Vote no: none