



# Atmosphere academy

## Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes June 10, 2019

5:00PM to 8:00PM  
Atmosphere Academy Charter School  
Meeting at 5959 Broadway  
New York, New York 10463

### **Board Members Attending:**

Mr. Mervin Burton  
Dr. Michael Lagas (by Phone)  
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.  
Mr. James Spitzer

### **Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Alan Dillon

### **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Colin J. Greene  
Mrs. Katherine Brennan  
Mr. Bryan Fryer  
Mr. Christian Roman  
Mr. Ben Pah  
Ms. Elizabeth Nash  
Ms. Camilla Gonzalez

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

At approximately 5:08 PM the Acting Board Chairman, Mr. Burton, called the meeting to order.

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Burton.

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

Mr. C. Greene reported on the Accountability Committee meeting. He explained the discussion of having a dashboard for each school leader and having key data points for all jobs and positions.

There was no Governance Committee meeting this month.

The Finance Committee meeting was to follow this board meeting but was not a value-add given the full board meeting discussion, so that was canceled for the month.

The next board meeting was scheduled for July 9.

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

There were no public attendees at the general meeting but substantial comments at Agenda Item 6.3.

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

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adopt the agenda.  
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

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

Mr. Bryan Fryer reviewed the dashboard and other regular reports. He noted that the school appears to be on target for very positive financial performance for the year. Substantial work has been done to deliver a strong 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. The board then discussed the bonus accrual and savings levels. Mr. Fryer then discussed the financial ratios of the school and how they are expected to continue to improve.

#### **Agenda Item 6.2. School Update**

Ms. Gonzalez reported on the attendance rates at the school and the action plans used to address problem students. She discussed lateness and absence rates, and levels. Overall attendance is good at over 94 percent. The compares to the NYC department of education school rates in the 80 percent range. Ms. Gonzalez and Mr. Roman discussed the hiring of a counselor to focus on absence problems.

Mr. Spitzer noted that absences can have a negative impact on performance and therefore must be a focus area.

The attendance policy was handed out to the board and discussed.

Ms. Gonzalez then reviewed the applications to attend the school for next year. The school has a very high application rate at 881 applications from all sources. 439 applications are from district 10.

Ms. Gonzalez then reviewed current enrollment levels noting that the school is at 409 full time equivalents and due to recent additions of students will end up at the target 410.

The board then reviewed the security methods and processes for cash received on site.

### **Agenda Item 6.3. High School Town Hall**

The board then joined waiting parents and students to hear their comments about Atmosphere and how much the community needs a high school run by Atmosphere. The discussion continued for about 45 minutes.

### **Agenda Item 6.4. Customink Commercial**

Mr. Pah discussed continuing work with Customink toward a commercial featuring Atmosphere prominently in the commercial. School management recommended a cap on expenditures with Customink products and that received general support from the board.

### **Agenda Item 6.5. SUNY Renewal/Revision Update**

It was decided to handle this by email and later communications.

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

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

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the minutes.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

Vote aye: Mr. Greene, Mr. Burton, Dr. Lagas, Mr. Spitzer  
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. J. Greene asked the board to reapprove the debt restructuring approved at the May meeting. The charts showing what had been approved was sent to the board before the meeting. The board approved the plan once again.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the debt restructuring  
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Lagas left the meeting at 8:12PM.

**Agenda Item 10. New Business**

There was no new business.

**Agenda Item 11. Adjournment**

The Board adjourned the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.  
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

Vote aye: Mr. Greene, Mr. Burton, Mr. Spitzer  
Vote no: none