

# Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2019

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

Meeting Held at 22 Marble Hill Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

<b>Board Members Attending:</b>	Board Members Absent:	Others in Attendance:
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Mr. Alan Dillon Mr. James Spitzer Mr. Colin J. Greene
Mr. Mervin Burton Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Dr. Michael Lagas Mr. Bryan Fryer
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr. Mr. Christian Roman
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mr. Peter Markey

No public in attendance

Mr. Ben Pah

The Board members toured the building expansion at 22 Marble Hill Avenue prior to the start of the Board Meeting.

## Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:08PM, Dr. Lagas called the meeting to order.

## Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

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Dr. Lagas led the pledge of allegiance.

### Agenda item 3. Board Reports

Mr. Greene reported on the finance committee meeting. He noted the financial issues the school is discussing with the DOE and that the full board would review these issues.

There was no governance committee this month.

The accountability meeting was discussed. The committee discussed the upcoming renewal application to SUNY.

#### Agenda Item 4. Comments From the Public

There were no public attendees and therefore no comments.

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

The board accepted the agenda as drafted.

#### Agenda item 6.1. Finance Discussion

Mr. Fryer discussed the two issues Atmosphere is addressing with the DOE. DOE claims certain overpayments and Atmosphere is working to settle the issues promptly. The board was briefed on the opinion of counsel, the accounting implications, the cash implications and settlement possibilities.

Mr. Fryer then discussed, the second issue, the impact of deferred rent adjustments in the final accounting for the year and the impact of the new loan structure.

The final Statement of Activity for the year was discussed including the final financial results, including the latest pledge of contributions. All aspects of this report were reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Fryer reported on the audit for the year. It is progressing well. The auditor visit has been completed, and there have been no adjustments to date.

The board then discussed the data needed for the SUNY renewal application.

#### Agenda Item 6.2. Custom Ink and Promotion Activities

Mr. Pah demonstrated the Custom Ink commercial featuring the school. The board discussed the intellectual property issues, the product designs provided by custom ink, and the benefits of this to Atmosphere. The school expects more traffic to its website from this visibility. The commercial will run

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on selected cable channels.

Mr. C. Greene explained development of the school's website and how that should progress.

Mr. Pah explained efforts to leverage social media and other efforts to get Atmosphere's name greater exposure and drive more views to the school's website. The goal is to drive more financial resources to Atmosphere.

Mr. C. Greene then discussed the strategy to better tell the school story of education and enrichment on the website using selected videos taken at the school.

Mr. Pah noted that social media experts say the school is close to break out on social media volume of readers.

#### Agenda Item 6.3. Education Program Document Review and Related Matters.

Mr. C. Greene led a discussion of the submission document going to SUNY for renewal soon. He explained the elements while the Board reviewed the 224 page document.

Mr. Burton asked about privacy of some of the contents of the document. Mr. C. Greene explained that confidential data would be redacted on the SUNY website. There was further discussion about the form, signers and other matters.

Mr. C. Greene noted the application check list of items that must be included. H also noted that certain processes and procedures will need formal codification by the Board at the September meeting.

Mr. Roman reviewed the suspension data and noted that there were no problems involved.

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the data from the Parent Satisfaction survey and the Board asked questions about certain charts.

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the building options the school has to support its application for expansion. He also discussed the need for additional space if Atmosphere is approved to form a high school.

Mr. C. Greene discussed the budget to be used in the submission document.

He then reviewed the goals of the school, the measures and numerical achievement sought.

He covered the enrollment and retention document. The school has exceeded most targets on retention.

He summarized the document and noted that this submission is better than the original formation application. High test scores are the strong element of this application.

Mr. Greene then reviewed how the SUNY Board interview process will work to set proper expectations.

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After discussing the performance scores in Math and English he turned to the specific requests to SUNY to expand the middle school and open a high school.

Mr. Roman explained how the students understand what they need to do because the school gives them the data on how they are doing.

Mr. Greene explained how the curriculum works and the tool built into it.

Mrs. Brennan and Ms. Nash gave a high level overview of the curriculum charts and how they work.

Mr. Greene discussed his academic standards and how high they are way above local public school standards.

Ms. Nash explained the structure of the Special Education program.

Mr. Greene closed this section with discussions of key processes, core values of the school, discipline processes, social emotional learning and counseling. Final points covered possible SUNY decisions and factors that could drive each possibility.

## **Agenda Item 6.4. Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the July Board meeting sent to them prior to the meeting.

Mr. Burton moved to approve the minutes from the July Board Meeting.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. Burton, Mr. J Greene, Mr. Dillon

Vote No: None

Motion passed. Minutes Approved.

## 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 discussed the need to get an IP lawyer hired and working to protect the school.

# Agenda Item 10. New Business

There was no new business.

# Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

At 8:21PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Burton moved to adjourn. Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: none

Meeting adjourned.