



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

Educating Your Bright Stars

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 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 (telephone)
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.(arrived at 6PM)

Board Members Absent:

Mr. James Spitzer
Dr. Evan Powderly

Others in Attendance:

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

Agenda Item 1. Call to order

At approximately 5 PM the meeting was called to order.

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by a present board member.

Agenda Item 3. Board Reports

There were no Governance or Accountability Committee meetings this month.

Agenda Item 4. Comments from the Public

There were no public attendees or public comments.

Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda

There were no revisions to the agenda.

Agenda Item 6.1. Finance Update

Mr. Fryer reported on the financial performance of the school. He briefly discussed the Statement of Activity, balance sheet, board dashboard of financial information and revisions thereto. He focused on the accounts payable projections, discretionary spending and fiscal benchmarks. He then covered how discretionary spending is conducted and its purpose. Mr. Burton made recommendations on accounts payable paydown priorities, which was supported by the board.

Mr. J. Greene reviewed the documents on his arrival and asked about the impact of a plan to pay down many accounts payable on the long term cash position and debt levels. Mr. Fryer was not present. The board authorized to Mr. Greene to discuss the issue with Mr. Fryer and make a decision as to whether to proceed with the aggressive accounts payable pay down.

Mr. Burton moved to authorize Mr. J. Greene to review the cash impact of accounts payable paydown and decide on the actions that should occur. His decision must be communicated to the board. Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Nays: none

Mr. C. Greene discussed the plans to expand to a high school, the expense structure of such an expansion and the total student population of such a school. To test the risk the board discussed the financial result of having only a minimum population as prescribed by SUNY. Financial results would still be positive at that low level of population.

Discussion continued on staffing, organizations, per pupil reimbursement rates and related matters.

Agenda Item 6.2. and 6.3. Midline Update and Q2 Update

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the midline test data and the board discussed the results. English grades are doing well. Math still need focused attention. The board discussed the areas of concern and authorized significant actions to improve skills.

Dr. Lagas left the meeting at 6:30PM.

Agenda Item 6.4. Staffing Update

Mr. Roman reviewed his staffing levels and issues. One position is the focus of his attention right now. The board discussed and supported his actions. Mr. Roman also discussed the work of his guidance counselors on getting Atmosphere students into god high schools.

Ms. Nash reviewed her staffs performance and turnover rates. She covered her new hire and the potential of her staff.

Mr. C. Greene noted that Atmosphere does not often get outbid for good people due the salary structure and merit system at the school.

Mrs. Brennan discussed where the Costa Rica trip planning is going and noted that substantial funds have been raised to cover the cost.

Agenda Item 6.5. and 6.6 Student learning Update and Math Update

The staff and board then engaged extensively to discuss motivation and teaching ideas for math.

Agenda Item 6.7. Other Director/Principal Updates

Any items here were covered in other discussions.

Agenda Item 6.8. Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the January 2018 meeting were sent to the board before the meeting. They were adopted without revision.

Mr. Greene moved to adopt the minutes.
Mr. Burton seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: M. Burton, A. Dillon, 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

The board moved to adjourn.

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