



Atmosphere academy

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes February 13, 2020

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

Board Members Attending:

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

Board Members Absent:

Mr. James Spitzer

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin J. Greene
Mr. Ben Pah
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Ms. Camila Gonzalez
Ms. Lean Litvak
No public in attendance

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:00PM Dr. Lagas called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Lagas led the pledge of allegiance.

Agenda item 3. Board Reports

Mr. C. Greene reported on the accountability meeting of January 31, 2020. Topics discussed included performance statistics, students in crisis management, teacher retention and grade book management.

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It was noted by those present that Mr. Spitzer asked for more information on high school placement of Atmosphere graduates.

Mr. J. Greene noted the upcoming finance committee meeting.

There was no governance committee meeting this cycle.

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 had no objections or additions.

Agenda item 6.1. Finance Update

The board reviewed and approved the December minutes as written.

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

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. Burton, Mr. Dillon, Mr. J. Greene
Vote no: None

Motion Adopted

Agenda Item 6.2. 2020-2021 Enrollment

Ms. Camila Gonzalez reviewed the application statistics for the upcoming school year. A presentation displayed the statistics discussed.

She opened reviewing the current year population numbers and processes. Current full time equivalent is 409.61 students, very close to the 410 authorized. This has been possible by back filling openings as they occur. She also reviewed the process used with the City of Yonkers for compensation for students from their district. The attendance report process was also reviewed as this is the basis for compensation from the Department of Education. She also covered the transfer in process for new students. Mr. C. Greene explained the grading process for students who joined mid year and late in the year.

Ms. Gonzalez discussed the strong applications for the coming school year. Total applications are 982. The school has 273 from district 10 and 175 from border districts. Many from outside district 10 are from district 11. The school also has 17 applications from Yonkers. By April 1 the school expects 1000 applications. The school will focus on district 10 applicants first, then the rest of new York City

applicants, and then those from outside New York City. The school is aiming fill 310 to 320 positions to move to population of around 600 for the next school year and 720 the year after.

Ms. Gonzalez next explained the enrollment outreach efforts the school applies. These include open house meetings, school visits, mass emails, MTA advertising and other actions. The school also tries to capture data on how applicants learned about the school so these efforts can be more effective.

Agenda Item 6.3. Student Return Update

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the statistics regarding the number of students returning to the school in the recent new school year. Return rate is high at 95%. Of the non- returning student's, family moves are drive 18 to 19 students not to return. Then there are another 19 to 20 students who did not return due to various reasons, including transfers.

The board asked about crisis students and how they are handled. The number is very small. He explained how those are handled and how the school works with the parents. This process is working well.

Agenda Item 6.4 Costa Rica Update

Mrs. Brennan reviewed the travel plans coming up. She gave a detailed review of the visits to schools in Costa Rica, the activities the students will be involved in, the community service they will do, and the oversight that will be in place. She also reviewed the travel plans and the focus on safety of all involved.

Slightly less than half the expense has been covered by fundraising. The parents have been excited by the opportunity for the students, which has helped.

She explained the effort to get documentation in place for the trip, and the projects, reports and activities students are expected to do regarding the trip.

A presentation was shown regarding elements of the trip.

Agenda Item 6.5. Hall of Fame

Mr. Pah explained the upcoming Hall of Fame presentations for February 25, 2020. This covers 10 student graduates of Atmosphere who will return and be recognized for their academic success. This is an effort to reach back and maintain contact with high performing students. The students in this case cover 2 years of graduates. Board members were asked to attend.

Mr. Pah then discussed future vision of alumni participation with Atmosphere.

Agenda Item 6.6. Partnership Update

Mr. Pah led the review of partnerships for Atmosphere. He noted that the school now has 24 active partnerships. He reviewed all major partnerships by vendor and by school. Partnerships include the Island School, Westchester Land Trust, Riverdale School, Bronx River Art Center, Manhattan College, Columbia Business School, Fordham University, Barbara Oakley and many others. He reviewed each partner's capability, what the relationship brings to Atmosphere and what the potential is for the future

Mr. Dillon departed during this discussion at 7:06PM.

Agenda Item 6.7. Achievement Update

Mr. C. Greene and Ms. Litvak reviewed the achievement data in this session and in Agenda Item 6.8. Mr. C. Greene assisted. They reviewed grade by grade performance and comparison to prior years. This was based on multiple choice results. Constructive response results will come later.

Overall the data indicated big improvements year to year. Comments by grade indicate 6th grade performance strong year to year and 7th grade is improving year to year.

The overall outlook is to be over 50% proficiency with math in the 60s and English in the 50s.

Other areas covered were how analytics of data has helped identify specific performance problems and where to attack those problems. Also grade by grade performance analytics have enabled identification of the need for extra classes to help math and English, also the need for Saturday classes in certain cases.

Agenda Item 6.8. Q2 Data Update

Ms. Litvak led the data update. Participating were Mrs. Brennan, Mr. Pah and Ms. Nash. Grades were reviewed by number of students by letter grade and then by class grade level. There is an acceptable spread of performance over the letter grades.

Mr. C. Greene discussed the strategy and opportunity to further improve student performance by helping those that are struggling.

Ms. Nash and Mrs. Brennan explained how data is being used to help deal with performance problems. Mr. C. Greene discussed how teachers are using data to head off problems like missing homework.

Review of 6th grade performance indicated that this class is doing well. The 7th grade has had some growth in number of As but little change in poor performing students. The 8th grade has had strong growth in the number As and Bs and drop in poor performance so this grade is doing better.

Mrs. Brennan then discussed the mid quarter intervention, the efforts to increase the teacher monitoring of students' work, crisis identification and grade book consistency. Also parent intervention to help students and the speed up of instruction cycle to re-teach problem areas.

Agenda Item 7. Consent Agenda

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There were no consent agenda items.

Agenda Item 8. Executive Session

There was no executive session.

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 the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.

Mr. Burton seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned at approximately 8:12PM.