



# Atmosphere academy

## Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes December 20, 2019

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.

### **Board Members Absent:**

Mr. James Spitzer  
Mr. Mervin Burton

### **Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Colin J. Greene  
Mr. Bryan Fryer (by phone)  
No public in attendance

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

At approximately 10:03 AM Dr. Lagas called the meeting to order. Mr. Greene and Dr. Lagas were present at the start of the meeting.

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

No pledge of Allegiance was held at this meeting.

### **Agenda item 3. Board Reports**

Dr. Lagas reported on the Accountability Committee meeting of November 22, 2019. He noted that the committee discussed updated information from SUNY, school performance reports, hiring actions, evaluation processes, bonus process, achievement programs, math performance and ELA performance.

Mr. J. Greene reviewed the discussions at the Finance Committee meeting of December 13, 2019.

Mr. C. Greene discussed the need for a Governance Committee meeting. A proposal was made to hold a committee meeting before the next board meeting in January.

Mr. Dillon joined the meeting at 10:07 AM.

#### **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**

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the agenda for the meeting, and the board had no objections or additions.

#### **Agenda item 6.1. Finance Update**

Mr. Fryer reviewed the financial report package. He went through real estate costs, the recent bonus payment in November and the cash impact of that.

Mr. Fryer focused on the financial dashboard with special attention on trustee loans, budget variances, and student incentive costs. Mr. C. Greene discussed spending patterns for the incentive items.

The board then discussed financial priorities. Mr. J. Greene noted that he preferred the school build cash to reduce the need for short term bridge loans.

Mr. C. Greene discussed his work to get a bank line of credit. He noted that the interest rate would be high at this point and noted that it would be better to improve the school's financial position before signing up for such a loan. He also noted the need for multiyear financials for bank review. So it may take another year to be able to execute this plan.

Mr. C. Greene reviewed the 5 year budget line by line. The board engaged in an intensive discussion of the budget. Some revisions were discussed.

#### **Agenda Item 6.2. Hiring Update**

Mr. C. Greene reviewed hiring plans across different positions in the school. These positions cover STEM, SPED, math and science positions. He then reviewed the status of each candidate and their resumes. He noted that the school is generally seeing better candidates as time goes on. The big challenge will come with expansion and the need for 20 more staff.

**Agenda Item 6.3. Learning How to Learn/ Coursera Partnership**

Mr. C. Greene reviewed with the Board the November 19 presentation of Dr. Barbara Oakley at the school. Mr. Dillon explained her courses and newsletters. He also noted that her presentation was high value. Mr. Dillon went on to explain her pilot program in Spain and how Atmosphere could be linked into that program involving 10 schools. Other structures are possible. Mr. C. Greene explained that the partnership could broaden Atmosphere teacher skills and enhance recognition of Atmosphere Academy.

**Agenda Item 6.4 Achievement Update**

Mr. C. Greene reviewed student scores by grade. He discussed the “sprints” (tests) and how they tell the management about the success of the achievement program. He reviewed the 8<sup>th</sup> grade math and English results by team name. He noted strong performance of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and need for improvement from the 6<sup>th</sup> grade. His focus on data and student performance data in particular is getting more focus across the school. There are still improvements that can be made for taking information from data and converting that into action plans. He then reviewed the achievement materials design and theory of teaching used to bring students up to speed.

**Agenda Item 6.5. Budget 2020-2025**

This was discussed in Agenda Item 6.1. See that section of the minutes.

**Agenda Item 6.6 Charter Climate Update**

Mr. C. Greene discussed with the board what certain states are doing regarding charter schools. He discussed the support levels and trends in attitudes. The board discussed the possible future comparison of states and city financial support and trends for a better understanding of where charter school environments are headed.

**Agenda Item 6.7. Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 20, 2019 Board meeting. The board approved the minutes as drafted.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the November 20, 2019 Board Minutes.  
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

**Agenda Item 7. Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

**Agenda Item 8. Executive Session**

The Board moved to enter executive session to discuss medical, financial, credit or employment history of personnel and matters dealing with employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a person or persons.

Mr. Dillon moved to enter Executive Session.  
Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

The board moved to exit Executive Session at 1:42 PM.

Mr. Dillon moved to exit executive session.  
Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

**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. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1:43 PM.