



Atmosphere academy

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes September 29, 2021

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
22 Marble Hill Avenue
Bronx, New York 10463

Board Members Attending

Dr. Michael Lagas (by Zoom)
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.
Mr. Alan Dillon
Mr. Jim Spitzer (joined during Item 6)

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin J. Greene
Mr. Bryan Fryer (by Zoom)
Mr. Benjamin Pah
Mrs. Elizabeth Kelly
Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum
Mr. Christian Roman
No other public in attendance

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:14PM, Dr. Lagas called the Board meeting to order.

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Agenda item 3. Board Reports

The Finance Committee topics will be covered later in this meeting during the Finance Update.

Agenda Item 4. Comments From the Public

There were no comments at this time.

Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. C. Greene presented the Agenda for approval by the Board. There were no changes to the Agenda.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the Board Agenda for September 2021.
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 6. Executive Session

At approximately 5:17PM, the Board moved to enter Executive Session to discuss:

- a) the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation.
- b) the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition, sale, or exchange of securities, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value.

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

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

After the discussion, at approximately 6:08PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

Mr. J. Greene moved to exit Executive Session.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Agenda Item 7.1. Finance Update

Mr. Fryer spoke about the financial audit that took place over the last few months. Mr. Fryer noted that there were no major issues flagged during this audit. The audit work was completed last week. The board decided that the audit documents would be approved at a future board meeting.

Mr. Fryer spoke about some of the line items on Atmosphere's financial statements, and the reason why some expenses increased. Atmosphere's net assets are higher than they have been in the past due to the increased enrollment. The board discussed some of the grants receivable that Atmosphere has received and is expecting to receive. Mr. Fryer discussed some of the lease information in the financial audit documents. Mr. Fryer shared the advisory letter from the audit documents

Mr. Fryer presented the financials for the month ending 8/31/2021. He explained how the current enrollment is impacting the budget. The board discussed this further and spoke about how the enrollment number may impact staffing as well. Mr. Fryer also spoke about the SUNY Financial Benchmarks and explained where Atmosphere currently stands.

Atmosphere's facility allowance is below budget and so are federal grants. Atmosphere is expecting more grant funding to hit the bank account later in the year.

The board moved to approve the Avison Young contract for \$10,000/month that is cancellable at any time.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the Avison Young contract.
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

The board moved to approve the Resolution of the Board of Trustees regarding the acquisition of a new high school building.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the resolution.
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Agenda Item 7.2. 22 MHA New Wing Tour

The board took a tour of the new wing at 22 Marble Hill Avenue, including the new rooftop playground.

Agenda Item 7.3. Board By-Laws

The board reviewed the revised by-laws and updated board committees.

The board made a motion to approve the new committee structure, which gets rid of the Governance and Accountability Committees, and adds a Middle School Committee and a High School Committee.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the new committee structure.
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Agenda Item 7.4. Board Membership

The board discussed the board member recruitment process and the steps that the board will take to recruit new interested parties and candidates. The board discussed how this process should run and what steps board members should take to gauge interest from potential candidates.

Agenda Item 7.5. Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rosenblum presented the August Board meeting minutes for approval by the Board. These were sent to the Board in advance for their review.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the Board meeting minutes for August 2021.
Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. August minutes approved.

Agenda Item 7.6 Middle School Update

Each officer presented some information on their respective departments within the middle school. This included plans for staffing in each department. Officers are working to solidify Middle School staffing to ensure that the High School can become the main focus starting in December/January.

Agenda Item 7.7 High School Update

Each officer presented some information on their respective departments related to planning for the high school. This included hiring updates, student recruitment updates, program updates, and academic updates.

Mr. C. Greene discussed the organization structure related to the High School, including officers, directors and leaders. He also presented different partnerships that Atmosphere is forming related to acquiring new facilities and forming new programs for Atmosphere scholars. Mr. C. Greene also discussed the Achievement program and timeline for staffing.

Mrs. Kelly presented her organization structure for the Student Learning department. This includes the addition of a Student Learning Director and Student Services Director. Mrs. Kelly also discussed goals for the High School Student Learning department, which includes supporting students with disabilities.

Mr. Roman spoke about the High School Culture Program. This included a discussion of Culture Admin Apprentices who are in training to become a manager or leader. Mr. Roman set up this extra position for certain members of his team to help prepare them for the future opportunities that will arise on the Culture Team. Mr. Roman also spoke about the day-to-day procedures that will be put in place at the high school level.

Mr. C. Greene touched on Mrs. Brennan's High School Academic Program, which included the introduction of Apprentice Administrators who are teachers that are currently working on their administrative skills with the goal of eventually being in an instructional leadership position.

Mr. Rosenblum presented the High School Operations program. This began by discussing staffing and the need for a Middle School Operations Leader and High School Operations Leader. Mr. Rosenblum also presented Atmosphere's Student Recruitment plan, which included goals for each core piece of the plan. The core pieces are open houses, advertising campaigns, community events, and application numbers.

Lastly, Mr. Pah presented the High School Programs Department plan, which included a rundown of different trips, both international and local, that Atmosphere's high school students will attend. Mr. Pah also spoke about the different elective programs that will be offered.

Agenda Item 8. Consent Agenda

There were no consent agenda items.

Agenda Item 9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Agenda Item 10. New Business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

At approximately 8:34PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Lagas, and Mr. Spitzer

Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.