



Atmosphere academy

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes July 27, 2022

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
Meeting held over Zoom

Board Members Attending

Dr. Michael Lagas.
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.
Mr. Alan Dillon
Mr. Jim Spitzer
Mr. Colin J. Greene (ex officio, CEO)

Board Members Not In Attendance:

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum
Mrs. Elizabeth Kelly
Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Mr. Benjamin Pah
Mr. Kevin Quinn (for item 6)
No other public in attendance

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:06 PM, Dr. Lagas called the Board meeting to order.

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was not performed as the meeting was held over Zoom.

Agenda item 3. Board Reports

The Finance Committee met this month. Those topics will be covered later in this meeting.

The High School Committee and Middle School Committee topics will be covered later in this meeting.

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.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the Board Agenda for July 2022.
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 6. Executive Session

At approximately 5:08 PM, 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. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Spitzer
Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 5:50 PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

Mr. J. Greene moved to exit Executive Session.
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Agenda Item 7.1. Finance Update

Mr. C. Greene opened the finance update by speaking about different scenarios related to enrollment and how Atmosphere's enrollment will affect the budget. Mr. Rosenblum continued by presenting the current enrollment numbers. Atmosphere's enrollment for next year is currently at 1,126, but it is important for Atmosphere to try and reach its max enrollment of 1250. Mr. Rosenblum discussed the steps that the enrollment team is taking to recruit and enroll more students prior to the start of the school year.

The board asked about what will be done in future years to ensure Atmosphere does not meet this scenario moving forward. Atmosphere will start recruitment earlier in the year and better engage with the community. The board discussed steps that Atmosphere can take in future years to enhance community engagement efforts.

Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. C. Greene shared Atmosphere's cash planning document which Mr. Markey had prepared. This document is being updated every two days with any purchases that are being made. This document will track Atmosphere's cash balance in real-time moving forward. Currently, Atmosphere shows a strong cash balance at the end of August, even without certain money it is owed by the DOE.

Agenda Item 7.2. Governance Update

Mr. Dillon self-nominated and made a motion to re-elect himself to the Atmosphere Academy Public Charter School Board of Trustees for an additional three year term (July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025).

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the motion to re-elect Alan Dillon.

Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Agenda Item 7.3. Board Meeting Minutes

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

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the Board meeting minutes for June 2022.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Mr. J. Greene and Mr. Dillon

Vote no: None

Vote abstain: Dr. Lagas and Mr. Spitzer

Agenda Item 7.4. Middle School Update

Mr. C. Greene opened the Middle School Update by displaying an agenda created by Atmosphere's officers.

Mr. Rosenblum started by presenting pictures of construction that is taking place at the Riverdale Jewish Center, Atmosphere's 8th grade building. The construction pictured is work that the RJC is completing, some of which Atmosphere is helping with in terms of funding (for example, ceiling renovations).

Enrollment was covered during the Finance Update, so that item was skipped, as well as the facilities update, which was covered during executive session.

The officers then presented on academic hiring. Mrs. Kelly confirmed that the Student Learning department is fully hired for the middle school. Mrs. Brennan confirmed that other academic departments still require new staff, but the number has been decreasing and some candidates are in the final steps of the hiring process. Mrs. Brennan also confirmed how many teachers have been moved to the high school or promoted to leadership positions, which accounts for some of the gaps in the middle school grades.

Mrs. Brennan presented purchases for approval by the board. These purchases include calculators, physical education equipment, vocabulary and interactive software, etc.

Mr. Spitzer moved to approve the purchases.
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Mr. C. Greene also noted the importance

Mr. J. Greene made a motion to increase Mr. C. Greene's purchase approval threshold to \$100,000 and increase officer purchase approval threshold to \$10,000.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve this policy change.
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Agenda Item 7.5. High School Update

Mrs. Kelly and Mrs. Brennan provided an update on high school academic hiring. There are still some positions outstanding. Some will remain outstanding until Atmosphere's enrollment is finalized. Other positions are in final hiring stages, which is positive.

Mr. C. Greene discussed Atmosphere culture hiring status and total hiring status.

Lastly, Mr. Rosenblum presented space planning for SY 22-23, which included an in-depth pack-up procedure for teachers to pack-up all materials in their rooms to be moved to other buildings. The board also discussed some of the rooms that are being used as storage and other rooms that are being converted into classrooms.

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

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There was no new business.

Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

At approximately 7:04 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Dillon moved to adjourn.

Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.