



Atmosphere
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Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2022

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
5959 Broadway, Bronx, NY 10463

Board Members Attending

Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.
Mr. Jim Spitzer (over Zoom, joined for items 3-7.1)
Dr. Michael Lagas
Mr. Colin J. Greene (ex officio, CEO)

Board Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Alan Dillon

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Mr. Benjamin Pah
Mr. Christian Roman
Mr. Peter Markey (for item 7.1)
Ms. Lona Nguyen (after item 6)
No other public in attendance

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:09 PM, Dr. Lagas called the Board meeting to order.

Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

Agenda Item 3. Executive Session

At approximately 5:10 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.
- c) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.
- d) matters which would imperil the public safety if disclosed;

Mr. J. Greene moved to enter Executive Session.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas and Mr. J. Greene

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 6:51 PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

Mr. J. Greene moved to exit Executive Session.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Agenda item 4. 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 met this month. Those topics will be covered later in this meeting

Agenda Item 5. Comments From the Public

There were no comments offered.

Agenda Item 6. 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 November 2022.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 7.1. Finance Update

Mr. Markey presented the financials for the month ending 10/31/2022. Mr. Markey started with the financial scorecard. The general enrollment and the external enrollment (Yonkers and Mount Vernon) is listed. The revenue for the month of October included the lease assistance shortfall from PP1 and PP2, as well as the PP3 amount which included all lease assistance for that per pupil pay period. Cash position at the end of October was north of \$4 million. Payables are being managed on an ongoing basis and are closely monitored by Mr. Markey, Mr. C. Greene and Mr. Rosenblum.

Mr. Markey went on to present the statements of activities. This displayed the budgeted amounts versus actual amounts spent by Atmosphere. Mr. Markey explained what goes into these numbers and why there are shortfalls in certain areas, such as grant funds that have not yet been paid out.

Atmosphere's Title I funding is expected in the next few days.

Mr. Rosenblum and Mr. C. Greene also discussed Atmosphere's enrollment and student recruitment, and different items that Atmosphere can do to improve this critical area. The

board discussed professionalizing our student recruitment practices and building a robust team that is able to manage the process.

Agenda Item 7.2. Board Meeting Minutes and Prior Motions for Approval

The minutes for the October board meeting will be officially approved at the next board meeting.

Agenda Item 7.3. Middle School Update

Mr. C. Greene presented Atmosphere's Leadership Quarterly Plans which is a robust slideshow that is to be filled out by leaders in each department on a quarterly basis. These items allow leadership to identify areas of growth, come up with a decision on how to fix any issues, and decide what documents will be created or are already created to help with the issue. It also allows leadership to identify strength areas and reflect on how they arrived at those strengths. Mr. C. Greene provided an example for the board.

Ms. Nash spoke about middle school student services, particularly team changes and IEPs. Ms. Nash noted that success plans for scholars have been created with more consistency this school year. In previous years, success plans were not created with consistency and most of the effort was put into just getting the plans created. Now, the process is flowing properly. Therefore, because of this, Atmosphere staff have been able to discuss how to ask more pointed questions in success plans, create more robust goals, and therefore further support students. Ms. Nash briefly touched on the SPED Dashboard and how it has proved to be useful for all stakeholders. All information can be found in one document.

Agenda Item 7.4. High School Update

Mr. C. Greene began by discussing high school grades. Compared to middle school grade levels, Atmosphere has a much lower percentage of high school STARS students. Atmosphere has found that many students had to be reset this year, even those who attended Atmosphere's 8th grade last year. Atmosphere is looking to boost the number of STARS students in future quarters. The board pointed out that it is surprising that multiple former 8th grade scholars are not performing as well in 9th grade. Mr. Roman elaborated on some of the issues that the culture team is witnessing in the high school. The culture team has started to make many breakthroughs with high school scholars, which is a step in the right direction.

Mr. C. Greene presented Atmosphere's data dashboard, which automatically shows Atmosphere's current grade distribution and behavioral accolades. Some students have too many demerits, which points to behavioral concerns, but also the fact that staff have to use

demerits with more restraint. Ms. Nash noted that it is usually new staff members who have issues administering the proper merit and demerits. The students that have too many Fs or too many demerits will be challenged to decrease the number of Fs and demerits that they receive in future quarters.

Mrs. Brennan went on to present the College Now program with Lehman College. Mrs. Brennan and Atmosphere's HS School Counselors identified 6 to 8 scholars who would be a good fit for the program. This program will allow them to earn some college credits now. These courses are offered online in the afternoon. In order for the scheduling to work, Atmosphere will be working to revise some scholar schedules to ensure that they are able to attend. Mrs. Brennan also noted that Atmosphere was approved for the AP exam and will begin administering that exam to some high school students starting in May.

Mrs. Brennan also provided an update on the Career Pathways program and the field trip that Atmosphere's engineering scholars took to The Edge in Manhattan.

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 7:42 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Greene moved to adjourn.
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned.