



Atmosphere academy

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes August 24, 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
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Mr. Benjamin Pah
Mr. Christian Roman
Mr. Peter Markey
Mr. Michael Gottlieb
Mr. Patrick Steffens
Mr. Martin Cottingham
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. 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. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 6:15 PM, 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. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, 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 topics will be covered later in this meeting.

Agenda Item 5. Comments From the Public

There were no comments at this time.

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 August 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 7.1. Finance Update

Mr. Markey presented the financials for the month ending 7/31/2022. Mr. Markey presented the per pupil amounts received during the month of July. Atmosphere should receive the same amount in the next week or so. The board asked about year-end financials for SY 21-22. Mr. Markey spoke briefly about year-end financials. Mr. Markey estimates that Atmosphere's net income at the end of SY 21-22 is in the \$800,000-900,000 range after depreciation.

The board also asked about funding that Atmosphere is waiting to receive from grants. Mr. Markey expects most funds to be received by the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Markey presented the cash planning document. This document tracks all expenses, including payroll and rent, two major expenses. Over time, the cash balance continues to build through November, even with the merit bonus paid out in November. Mr. Markey and his team will continue building it out for the remainder of the year. Any anticipated financial items are also being added to the document for cash planning purposes.

Mr. C. Greene touched on future expenses that Atmosphere will have to plan for such as field trips, international trips and other important points of Atmosphere's program.

At approximately 6:30 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. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 6:32 PM, 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. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, and Mr. Spitzer

Vote no: None

Mr. Markey confirmed that he is still in the process of building out a financial enrollment model that will show Atmosphere's financials given reduced enrollment numbers for planning purposes.

Agenda Item 7.2. Board Meeting Minutes

Mr. Rosenblum presented the July 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 July 2022.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Agenda Item 7.3. Middle School Update

Mr. C. Greene opened the middle school update by presenting a staffing update. Atmosphere's middle school is 98% hired. There have been a few issues during the first few days of middle school, such as a backup at dismissal due to double parking and a crowded sidewalk. Since the

first day of school, Atmosphere has amended the process and it is working much more smoothly now.

Ms. Nash spoke about the fact that there are many new staff at 6th/7th grade, so there are going to be learning curves. Atmosphere's teams should better anticipate potential issues to reduce any problems from the onset. That said, great improvements have been made over the course of the past few days.

Mr. Rosenblum presented current enrollment numbers. Atmosphere's enrollment is currently around 1,150, which is a major accomplishment. Atmosphere's goal is to get to 1,200 students, and there is currently a waitlist. Once Atmosphere's enrollment is solidified, they will consider pulling more students from the waitlist to reach 1,200 students.

Ms. Nash discussed "Week Zero", which provided orientation for scholars to become acclimated with Atmosphere Academy. This program allowed scholars to receive key materials and resources while meeting key staff members and learning Atmosphere's rules and expectations.

Mr. C. Greene continued by presenting the NYS Exam Data. Atmosphere's proficiency in English continues to grow every year, which is a major accomplishment. Atmosphere's proficiency in Math has decreased slightly. Math instruction will be a major focus area for SY 22-23. That being said, in certain grade levels, Atmosphere has still improved in Math compared to previous years. Ms. Nash and Mrs. Brennan discussed some of the steps that Atmosphere is taking to ensure metrics improve in SY 22-23 – these include better staffing and targeted support.

The board discussed the impacts of COVID-19 on NYS Exam Data and how to triage interrupted education in future years.

Agenda Item 7.4. High School Update

Atmosphere's high school attendance has been phenomenal, especially for the the first few days of school. This shows how invested families and scholars are, and how excited they are about this new opportunity. Mr. C. Greene went on to present some photos of the first few days of Atmosphere's high school.

Atmosphere's three-day orientation helped set expectations around behavior and student life, such as electives, clubs, athletics, trips, and much more. Mrs. Nash noted that students are asking great questions. They are engaged and interested in learning about their own student profiles, scores and career pathways.

Mr. C. Greene presented some of the slides that were presented to scholars during the first day of school. The stations allowed scholars to express themselves and get to know each other

through meaningful activities. Scholars were also made aware of different resources that would be provided for them, such as School Counselors who can speak with them about any issues they are facing. Mr. C. Greene continued by presenting a sample Atmosphere schedule. Scholars have flexibility to customize their schedules, as there are different electives and career pathways that scholars can pursue.

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 7:30 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene 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.