



Atmosphere academy

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes May 31, 2023

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
Zoom Meeting

Board Members Attending

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

Board Members Not In Attendance:

Dr. Tzvi Bar-David

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mr. Christian Roman
Mrs. Katherine Brennan
Mr. Benjamin Pah
Ms. Lona Nguyen (for items 6.1-6.3)
Dr. Kerri Mulqueen (for item 6.2)
Mr. Darryl Jenkins (for item 6.3)
Mr. Michael Roach (for item 6.3)
Ms. Julia Slay (for item 7)
Ms. Cheryl Insinga (for item 7)
No other public in attendance

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:05 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

No reports were given at this time.

Agenda Item 4. Comments From the Public

There were no comments offered.

Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda

Mr. C. Greene presented the Agenda for approval by the Board.

Mr. Spitzer moved to approve the agenda for May.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 6.1. Board Approvals

Mr. Rosenblum presented the April Meeting Minutes for approval by the Board.

Mr. Spitzer moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for April 2023.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

Mr. C. Greene presented the HS Student Promotion and Retention Policy for approval by the Board. Mr. C. Greene sent this to the board in advance of the meeting for their approval. Additionally, Mr. C. Greene provided a description of the promotion and retention policy and explained why that Atmosphere is shifting its policy. The policy has criteria for academics, behavior and attendance, which all factor into a students' academic success. Mr. C. Greene clarified that there are many intervention steps taken prior to utilizing this policy to ensure that scholars are successful at Atmosphere. This policy would only be used in Quarter 4, or occasionally in Quarter 3.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the HS Student Promotion and Retention Policy.
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. HS Student Promotion and Retention Policy approved.

Agenda Item 6.2. Regents Update w/ Instructional Leaders

Mr. C. Greene introduced Dr. Kerri Mulqueen, Atmosphere's English Director, who will present data and information regarding the upcoming English Regents Exam. Dr. Mulqueen spoke about her prior experience working as an English Teacher and building leader in various public schools, as well as her administrative experience at Manhattan College.

Mr. C. Greene then introduced Ms. Ericka Shammgod, Atmosphere's Science Director, who will present data and information regarding the upcoming Science Regents Exams. Ms. Shammgod reflected on the year and spoke about filling vacancies in the Science Department. Ms. Shammgod also spoke about developing the Science Managers on her team.

Dr. Mulqueen began her presentation by discussing the Baseline and Midline Exams that are given to Atmosphere students each year. The Baseline Exam is administered at the beginning of the year. The Midline Exam is administered at the middle of the year. At the Baseline, 30% of 9th graders and 23% of 10th graders were proficient. At the Midline Exam, these numbers went up to 39% and 55% proficient, respectively. Dr. Mulqueen did note that most students across the city who take the June English Regents exam are in 11th grade, whereas Atmosphere has 9th and 10th graders take the June English Regents exam. Dr. Mulqueen then discussed her response to the Baseline and Midline Exam data. English 10 Lab classes were converted to Regents Prep classes for Quarter 4. Scholars were given an argumentative writing project to prepare further for the exam. Sprints, which are mini-exams to check for understanding, were

administered bi-weekly across the 10th grade English classes. Saturday Regents boot camp sessions were put in place, where different focus-areas were covered each week. Regents rubric scoring sessions were held with English faculty to norm expectations. Atmosphere also utilized small group instruction to work with students on different components that they were struggling with. Dr. Mulqueen presented some photos from the Saturday sessions. All students who are testing in June were invited to attend these Saturday sessions. Scholars and families are notified of these sessions in advance. Atmosphere has also been conducting time management training with scholars, and Dr. Mulqueen has seen a major improvement in this area since the Midline Exam. During testing this June, all 10th grade cohorts have students who will be testing, which is a great accomplishment. This means that not just AP students are taking this exam. The board asked Dr. Mulqueen about the number of students not cooperating with this, for example, those that are assigned to Saturday sessions but do not attend. Dr. Mulqueen responded that there are a small number of students that fit this description, but that there are supports in place to help these scholars increase their scores. Scholars who do not test in June will have the opportunity to test in August and beyond.

Ms. Shammgod then provided an update on the Science department related to the Regents Exam. In the past 4 years, Atmosphere surpassed the district's proficiency, which is positive. Ms. Shammgod spoke about the importance of writing in Science, especially on the Regents exam. Scholars have a strong foundation in writing from their English classes, but writing skills shift somewhat when switching subjects to Science. Ms. Shammgod also discussed time management. Scholars now know how long they should be spending on each question in order to finish the exam in a timely manner. Atmosphere strives to outperform the state this year and in future years. Scholars are doing much better on multiple choice questions. To help scholars further prepare for the exam, Atmosphere will focus on answering constructed response questions. For the Living Environment Regents Exam, Ms. Shammgod broke down student performance by question types and subjects. This allows the Science Department to determine where to focus in the weeks and months leading up to the exam. The same is being done for the Earth Science Exam. Ms. Shammgod showed a sample question from the Living Environment Regents exam. Scholars are being told to break down the important information in a question and identify the key information to focus on. Ms. Shammgod further spoke to her goal of outperforming the district and the state. During achievement sessions, scholars are doing hands-on activities and teachers are conducting small group instruction, which has proven to be impactful.

Agenda Item 6.3. HS Counselors Update w/ HS Counselors

Mr. Roman introduced Mr. Jenkins, Atmosphere's 9th Grade School Counselor, and Mr. Roach, Atmosphere's 10th Grade School Counselor. Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Roach will be discussing some credit accumulation trends. Mr. Jenkins gave a quick update on his experience at the high school this year. He previously worked at the 8th grade building. Mr. Roach also gave a brief update on his experience moving from the middle school to the high school. Mr. Roach noted

that in high school, there is a limited time and scope for scholars to show their academic achievement, so he works hard to ensure that all scholars on his grade level are supported in their high school years which helps them prepare for college and beyond.

Agenda Item 7. Executive Session

At approximately 6:24 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) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation.

Mr. J. Greene moved to enter Executive Session.

Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 7:21 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. Spitzer, Mr. Dillon and Mr. J. Greene

Vote no: None

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 7:21 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.