



Atmosphere academy

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes January 25, 2023

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
Zoom Meeting

Board Members Attending

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

Board Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Tzvi Bar-David

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Mr. Christian Roman
Mr. Joseph Zeitler (for item 3)
Mr. Robert McLaughlin (for item 3)
Mr. Salvador Capecelatro (for item 3)
Ms. Lona Nguyen (after item 3)
Mr. Peter Markey (for item 7.1)
No other public in attendance

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:04 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 5:05 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.

Mr. J. Greene moved to enter Executive Session.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 6:36 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, 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 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 agenda for January.
Dr. Lagas 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 12/31/2022. Mr. Markey presented the financial scorecard. The trustee loan was paid before the end of the year in full. The board agreed to remove the loan information from the financial scorecard now that it has been paid in full.

For the month of December, Atmosphere had a profit of \$40,000+. Atmosphere has a very strong operating surplus in FY 22-23. Part of this is because profits have increased due to increased enrollment. Additionally, cash is being monitored very closely. Atmosphere also received grant funds recently which have helped increase profits.

Mr. C. Greene and Ms. Nash spoke briefly about the special education population of Atmosphere. Atmosphere gets additional per pupil funds for special education students, depending on their services and class placement, as determined by the Committee on Special Education. Atmosphere will continue educating special education students, including in Atmosphere's high school.

Mr. Markey presented the comparison of YTD financials to the budgeted financials. Atmosphere had initially predicted a much smaller revenue in this period, which shows that expenses are

very much under control. The board asked about Atmosphere's accounts payable, which has decreased dramatically since 12/31/2022.

Agenda Item 7.2. Board Minutes

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

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for December 2022.

Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

Agenda Item 7.3. Data Update

Ms. Nguyen presented sprint and midline data. Atmosphere's 6th, 7th and 8th graders take these tests each year to gauge their understanding of the content throughout the school year. Some grade levels still have incomplete tests due to absent scholars, which will impact the average score. Midline and sprint results are mixed between the grade levels, but there are some bright spots, such as 7th grade outperforming last year's 7th grade on the ELA midline test. Mr. C. Greene discussed additional interventions that will be done to support students and increase their knowledge of the content in each subject.

The board asked how quickly Atmosphere is able to analyze the data and identify trends. Ms. Nguyen noted that Performance Matters, a program that Atmosphere adopted this school year, allows data to be uploaded and analyzed immediately. Mr. C. Greene noted that officers and other staff have been supporting Achievement and exams this year to support scholars and staff.

Agenda Item 7.4. Enrollment Update

Mr. Rosenblum provided an update on enrollment. Mr. Rosenblum presented data on the number of applications received on each grade level, as well as the weekly change. He discussed opportunities for growth in the coming months before the lottery. Mr. Rosenblum pointed out that high school application numbers needed to be increased. He also noted that Atmosphere is not starting a grade level with no matriculating students in SY 23-24, as they did this year. That should help drive enrollment in the upper grades and ensure enrollment does not fall off. Mr. C. Greene touched on the fact that Atmosphere's culture and operations teams

need to ensure that their current 8th graders understand the opportunities offered to them in Atmosphere high school and consider it as a viable option.

Agenda Item 7.5. Intervention Update

Ms. Nash provided an intervention update. She spoke about the work that she is doing with Atmosphere's Grade Leaders to ensure all students are being supported through success plans, behavioral intervention and academic intervention. Atmosphere is trending in the right direction with middle school intervention. Grade Leaders are required to provide data updates as well as an analysis of the data that they see. Part of this process includes looking at overall data and individual data. Grade Leaders pull information on different students who may be struggling to determine how they can be best supported. The process that has been developed allows workflow to be streamlined and action steps to be executed in a timely fashion.

At Atmosphere's high school, there is no grade leader in place, so Atmosphere's officers are very hands on in developing and executing a process. Atmosphere's data dashboard has formulas which allow data to be reviewed in real time. Mr. C. Greene presented the data dashboard and explained the data that is being viewed by the team. The quarterly breakdown of data allows administrators to see the differences in student academics and behavior between quarters. The goal is to ensure all students can get a Regents diploma or Advanced Regents diploma when they graduate from high school.

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 7:19 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

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

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

Meeting adjourned.