

Atmosphere Academy  
September 27, 2023



**Atmosphere**  
academy

**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
September 27, 2023

Atmosphere Academy Charter School  
Zoom Meeting

**Board Members Attending**

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

**Board Members Not In Attendance:**

Dr. Tzvi Bar-David

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum  
Ms. Elizabeth Nash  
Mrs. Katherine Brennan  
Mr. Benjamin Pah  
Mr. Christian Roman  
Ms. Lona Nguyen (all items except 6.2)  
Mr. Peter Markey (for item 6.1)  
Ms. Shelby Stenson (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Bob Keogh (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Sujal Shah (for item 6.1)  
Ms. Lizbeth Santana (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Robert McLaughlin (for item 6.2)  
Mr. Martin Cottingham (for item 6.2)  
Mr. Patrick Steffens (for item 6.2)  
No other public in attendance

**Agenda Item 1. Call to Order**

At approximately 5:07 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 Middle School and High School Committees did not meet this month, so no reports were provided.

**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.

Dr. Lagas moved to approve the agenda for September.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

**Agenda Item 6.1. Finance Update**

Ms. Shelby Stenson presented the Audited Financials for SY 2022-2023. Ms. Stenson spoke about the Statement of Financial Position. She noted the new accounting standard that was put in place this year. It had a significant impact on the balance sheet of the school. She noted that it was the most significant change between this year's audit and last year. Ms. Stenson further spoke about the increase in Property and Equipment, which can mostly be attributed to the addition of the high school. Atmosphere saw gains in revenue in SY 22-23 due to expanded

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enrollment. Ms. Stenson also spoke about some one-time additions to the SY 22-23 audit given the changing accounting standards and guidelines. She also touched on many of the footnotes that are present in the Audited Financials. All loans were paid prior to year end, which was noted in the audit. The board asked about one footnote regarding a sublease within Atmosphere's buildings. Mr. C. Greene explained that this sublease is related to the DYCD Afterschool Westhab program that takes place in Atmosphere's middle school building. Ms. Stenson and the board had one discussion regarding a "misstatement" that was recorded in the audited financials. This misstatement was regarding a late payment from Mount Vernon. The board and Ms. Stenson agreed that the facts supported removing this misstatement and the payment would be recorded as revenue, as Atmosphere does expect to receive payment.

Mr. Peter Markey presented financials for the month ending August 31, 2023. Mr. Markey noted a surplus of \$500,000+ after depreciation. The revenues will continue to grow due to the higher enrollment. Atmosphere's cash position at the end of August was \$5.57 million due to the first installment of per pupil being paid. Mr. Markey touched on the grants – most grants that were awarded in SY 22-23 are fully received, with some Title funds waiting to be awarded. The board asked about cutting expenditures based on enrollment, which Mr. C. Greene noted that Atmosphere plans to do. On the statement of financial position, Mr. Markey noted a high number of payables due to the upcoming international trip payments.

Mr. Rosenblum presented the current enrollment numbers. Currently, Atmosphere is facing headwinds, especially related to enrollment in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The board discussed possible strategies to drive enrollment moving forward and discussed that a lower enrollment in 6<sup>th</sup> grade could mean a lower enrollment in future grades in future years. Ms. Nash spoke about the Special Education numbers and noted that there is a discrepancy between the numbers she sees in billing and the number of students in seats. Mr. C. Greene noted the need to get back to maximum enrollment to drive revenue. Mr. C. Greene also spoke about the lower FTE as students enter Atmosphere later in the year.

Mr. C. Greene welcomed 4<sup>th</sup> Sector Solutions to the call.

The board moved to approve the Audited Financials for SY 22-23 pending the changes discussed in the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the audited financials.  
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Motion approved. Audited Financials approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.2. Executive Session**

At approximately 6:00 PM, the Board moved to enter Executive Session to discuss:

- a) 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
- b) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation
- c) 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

Mr. J. Greene moved to enter Executive Session.

Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 7:07 PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

Mr. Dillon moved to exit Executive Session.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

### **Agenda Item 6.3. Board Approvals**

Mr. Rosenblum presented the board meeting minutes for July and August 2023.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for July and August 2023.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.4. Middle School State Test Results**

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Mr. C. Greene presented the State Exam results from SY 22-23. Per the data, Atmosphere 6<sup>th</sup> graders struggled with the ELA exam, compared to previous years. In 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, Atmosphere reached a record number of students proficient for the ELA exam.

For the math exam, Atmosphere scholars performed better. 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades achieved a record number of students proficient for the Math exam.

Atmosphere will use this data to target certain grade levels and student groups to ensure that they receive the best possible instruction to support them moving forward.

#### **Agenda Item 7. Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

#### **Agenda Item 8. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **Agenda Item 9. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Agenda Item 10. Adjournment**

At approximately 7:14 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. Spitzer, and Mr. Dillon  
Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.