



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

taking learning to new heights

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 12, 2016

Atmosphere Academy Charter School Building
22 Marble Hill Avenue
New York, New York 10463

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Mervin Burton
Father Thomas Lynch
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr
Dr. Evan Powderly
Dr. Michael Lagas

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Grant Grastorf
Mr. Alan Dillon

Others in Attendance:

Mrs. Rose Castillo

Ms. Heather Blumberg (on phone)
Ms. Karen Daniels (on phone)

Members of the public were in attendance at this meeting:

Taylor Bernal, Capital Prep Harlem Charter HS
John Clemente, South Bronx Community Charter HS
Harvey Chism, South Bronx Community Charter HS
Natalie Ferrell, South Bronx, Community Charter HS
Randall Iserman NYC Charter Center
Corey Callahan, NYC Charter Center
Elizabeth Perez, President APA
Diana Neato, Treasurer APA
Mercedes Minaya, Secretary APA
Dortheah Edwards
At least 2 others who did not sign in.

At approximately 4:45PM Dr. Powderly opened the meeting. A motion was made to go into executive session. It was passed. The Board went into executive session, discussed the business necessary and moved to return to public session. That motion was also passed.

Mr. Colin Greene reviewed with the Board his materials about the school including its Facebook page and his efforts communicating about the school activities.

At this point a group of charter school representatives led by the Start Right Program at the Charter Center joined the meeting. They attended to observe and learn about Atmosphere's experiences and process.

Mr. Colin Greene explained the Board process. Then he continued to discuss the school's website and his effort to redesign it. He also explained and showed pictures of the enrichment programs the school has been running including Japanese class, French class, and Nature Center events.

Representatives of CSBM dialed in by phone.

Dr. Powderly then led those in attendance in the pledge of allegiance.

He then asked for any additions or corrections to the agenda. There were none. He asked for a motion to accept the agenda. A motion was made and approved by the Board to accept the agenda.

The Charter Center attendees introduced themselves.

Mr. Colin Greene then explained the history of the school and his background.

At this point Mrs. Rose Castillo and another parent joined the meeting.

The Atmosphere Board members went around the table introducing themselves with a brief discussion of their backgrounds. Colin Greene spoke about Board members not in attendance.

Agenda item 5.1 continued. At this point the Atmosphere Board took questions from the Charter Center guests. The discussion covered a number of topics, but special focus was on the real estate challenges that Atmosphere faced and how the school solved them.

Agenda item 5.2. A motion was made to approve the minutes. It was seconded and approved by the Board.

Agenda item 5.3. Ms. Heather Blumberg of CSBM gave a finance update. She reviewed revenues and expenses. She covered overages and reasons why. She discussed the projected net income of the school. Net income is projected to be \$227,000 for the fiscal year as of the date of the meeting. Cash flow remains tight due to the wait for funds from the city.

Agenda item 5.4. Mr. Colin Greene discussed the addition of 6 more students to the school. We lost 1 due to a move out of the area.

Mr. Colin Greene explained the change in process whereby the school has created a modified self-contained team that flexes into another team at certain times during the day for physical education and other subjects while having English, math, and other core subjects a smaller 10-1-1-1 setting that provides 3 adults to work with 10 students. The reason for the change is that starting February 1 the new space Atmosphere is leasing will provide new rooms to make this schedule a reality with no budgetary impact. This will add better utility of personnel and space. This is consistent with SUNY methods and Atmosphere's charter and original proposal. Mr. Colin Greene asked for a motion to adopt this change. The motion was made, seconded, and passed.

Agenda item 5.5. Mr. Colin Greene presented the Mindshift contract to the Board for approval. This builds out and supports the IT infrastructure at Atmosphere. He also discussed the CSBM contract for financial services and asked for approval of both contracts. A motion was made to approve both contracts. It was seconded and approved by the Board.

Agenda item 5.6 . Mrs. Rose Castillo introduced parent leaders. Elections were held in November. Ms. Elizabeth Perez is the President. She commented that she is proud of the school and her child is excelling here. The Secretary is Mercedes Minaya and the Treasurer is Diana Beato. Both were present and introduced.

At this point Ms. Edwards commented that her daughter has done amazingly well at Atmosphere. Another parent spoke about how her son has benefited at the school.

Dr, Powderly then asked for more comments from those present.

Ms. Castillo translated one parent's comment that she was happy with the school, but her child needs more help than what Atmosphere is giving. Mr. Colin Greene said he will look at what else the school can do, but pointed out that the new team will provide her son with more support in a very small class size of only 10 students.

Ms. Castillo gave an enrollment report. The school is now at 134. The target is 138. She was confident Atmosphere could get there by the end of January. She then explained the promotional program she was running. She explained the application process and alternatives such as the common application and the Atmosphere application. She discussed the data on applications by month.

Finally, new actions for recruiting for 2016 were discussed. There was a summary of applications received by district.

Dr. Powderly closed the formal session of the meeting. Mr. Jesse Greene and Dr, Powderly departed and the Board toured the newly leased sections of the building.