



# ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

## taking learning to new heights

**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
February 11, 2016

22 Marble Hill Avenue  
New York, New York 10463

**Board Members Attending:**

Mr. Mervin Burton  
Mr. Alan Dillon (by phone)  
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr  
Dr. Michael Lagas

**Board Members Absent:**

Mr. Grant Grastorf  
Father Thomas Lynch  
Dr. Evan Powderly

**Others in Attendance:**

Ms. Heather Blumberg(CSBM)  
Ms. Michelle Rumph (CSBM)  
Mr. Colin J. Greene, Principal

Members of the public were in attendance at this meeting:

Felicia Thompson  
Dortheah Edwards

In the absence of the Chairman, Dr. Powderly, Jesse J. Greene, Jr. served as acting Chairman for this meeting.

At approximately 5:00 pm, Jesse Greene opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance

**Agenda item 5.1**

Mr. Colin Greene opened with a discussion of educational tools and materials the school leadership is using. Materials were passed around for the Board members to review. School results were also explained, including performance by grade and class. Exam processes and diagnostic results were discussed. Mr. C. Greene explained the data and that the school has determined that there is a need to improve their student's attention to testing and performance. He explained the activities underway to motivate students in that regard.

Mr. C. Greene continued with a demonstration of the dashboard showing performance. Mr. Dillon asked if scores are improving. Mr. Greene explained that they are flat overall, with some students up and some down. Dr. Lagas commented about the risk of over testing. Mr. C. Greene said they were trying to avoid that, but they needed to get the students to focus fully so the tests produce an accurate measure of their levels of achievement. Mr. C. Greene continued to explain how he analyzed how students moved through

the test to see if the students did the reading before answering the questions. He also demonstrated the search capability of the system the school is using. Dr. Lagas asked if the top students move higher and the low performing students stay low. Mr. C. Greene acknowledged that that is occurring and that the school has to do more for the students at the bottom. He also noted that the school needs more staff to provide even more robust intervention services. In future years, the budget should allow for more resources to be added.

Mr. C. Greene next explained that the NYC Community Development authority has committed \$900,000 for three years of after school (and Saturday) programs. Westhab will be providing the service. They pay for everything. They hire the people and any needed vendors. Atmosphere must deliver 120 students, but there is no lower limit this first year. Mr. Burton commented on how needed this is. \$300,000 is available for spending in this fiscal year between March 1 and June 30.

Mr. C. Greene also noted that the after school program ends at 5:30 to 6PM and how that is a transportation problem for some parents.

### **Agenda Item 5.2**

Mr. C. Greene commented on the school operations. The Director of Operations is leaving and the school is searching for a replacement. Mr. C. Greene is talking to staff about work assignments and work load.

The discussion next turned to the new space in the building. The lower level and the additional space on the first floor are nearly ready. Mr. C. Greene is talking to vendors. Lockers and lunch tables are arriving and the school is setting up in the new space. The certificate of occupancy inspection is about to occur and the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy should follow.

Mr. C. Greene then explained that he is hiring a firm to take over development of the school's promotional materials. So far Mr. C. Greene has done most of that himself. The new firm will create a professional website, brochures, some graphics/layout for annual report, literature about the school, and other needs. The cost will be \$2,500 per month plus special projects billed separately.

Mr. C. Greene reported that the school has 90 applications for next year through its portal and 60 from the common application. Atmosphere needs over 200 applications for next year to be ready to fill all seats.

With regard to fundraising, Mr. C. Greene reported that the Tisch Family Foundation has donated \$2,500.

In terms of enrichment programs, Mr. Greene reported that Westchester Land Trust will publish a write-up about Atmosphere Academy. The Westmoreland relationship is also going well. Atmosphere has had 40 children attending events at their site. The plan is to add an equestrian program this summer in Riverdale or another site via the partnership with Westhab.

### **Agenda item 5.3.**

Ms. Heather Blumberg and Ms. Michelle Rumph of CSBM reported that net income for the fiscal year is expected to be \$122,912, but cash timing remains a challenge due to the timing of funds from government sources. Billable student count stands at \$135,173.

Ms. Blumberg mentioned the possibility of another DYCD grant, but there is no confirmation, no idea of timing, and no information on the purpose requirements.

Ms. Blumberg noted that the Tax form 990 needs to be reviewed by the Board and approved for filing at the next Board meeting.

**Additional agenda items**

All present went on a tour of the building.

A motion was made to enter executive session. It was seconded and the board entered executive session during which personnel issues were discussed.

Mr. J. Greene then closed the meeting.