



**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2015 from 5:30pm-7:00pm
Fordham University
Keating Hall, Room 124
Bronx, New York 10458**

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Mervin Burton
Ms. Vincenza Corcoran
Mr. Jesse Greene
Mr. Grant Grastorf
Dr. Michael Lagas
Father Thomas Lynch
Dr. Migdalia Maldonado Torres

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Evan Powderly

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Heather Blumberg
Ms. Rose Castillo
Ms. Christina DiStanislaio
Ms. Kimberly Friedman
Mr. Colin Greene
Ms. Elizabeth Nash
Ms. Michelle Rumph
Ms. Dahiana Sanchez
Mr. Oren Sendowski

The meeting was called to order at 5:39pm by Mr. Jesse Greene who acted as Chair due to Dr. Evan Powderly's absence.

No members of the public were present for agenda items #3 and #3a under Comments from the Public.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for any revisions for the agenda under items #4 and #4a. Since there were no revisions, Mr. Jesse Greene asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Michael Lagas made the motion and Ms. Vincenza Corcoran seconded. All Board members agreed and the agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item	Description	Notes
5.1 Presentation from Morningside Construction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Morningside will present a rendering and floor plan of their proposed new construction project on Park Avenue near Fordham Plaza. 	The Board will discuss the project and next steps.
5.2 Approval and Signing of Lease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jesse Greene and Mr. Colin Greene will summarize the terms of the 	The Board will discuss the lease and vote to approve entering into the lease agreement.

for 22 Marble Hill Avenue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> lease. A draft of the lease and the term sheet were previously circulated with the Board via email. Marble Hill Partners LLC and Atmosphere Academy will sign the lease they have negotiated. 	
5.3 Enrollment Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mrs. Rose Castillo will provide the Board with the latest enrollment data. 	The Board will discuss the latest developments with the enrollment process.
5.4 Hiring Update and Welcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Colin Greene will provide the Board with the latest hiring update. New hires that are present will be introduced and briefly discuss their backgrounds and experiences with the Board. 	The Board will welcome newly hired faculty and staff
5.5 Finance Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSBM Report (Ms. Heather Blumberg) 	CSBM will present on Atmosphere's financial status and upcoming events.

Morningside Construction, represented by Mr. Oren Sendowski, did a presentation on a new construction project at 189th and Park Avenue in the Bronx for agenda item #5.1. Mr. Sendowski showed layouts of the project which if approved by the Board could be ready in approximately 18 months to 2 years. It would provide Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools space needed for long term growth. The Board agreed that there are many benefits to the location and will discuss the construction project at future meetings.

Marble Hill Partners LLC also represented by Mr. Oren Sendowski did a presentation of 22 Marble Hill Avenue for agenda item #5.2. The site offers a good location to open the school for the fall of 2015 class. Marble Hill Partners LLC owns the building and has the permits in place and will coordinate the build out for the school parameters. SUNY also reviewed and approved the location and the lease. The cost also fits into the school's budget plan. The building is a six story building built in 2006. The lower level and half of the first floor (street level) is a day care center that will be vacating the site in one year. Floors three through five are residential. The remainder of the first floor and the full second floor will be the location of Atmosphere Academy Public Charter School with room for expansion in the second year. Mr. Jesse Greene explained the details of the lease (which had been circulated with the Board via email) and recommended the lease be approved. Dr. Michael Lagas made the motion to approve the lease of 22 Marble Hill Avenue. Mr. Mervin Burton seconded the motion. All Board members present approved, and the motion was passed.

Ms. Rose Castillo, Director of Operations for Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools gave an enrollment update for agenda item #5.3. Ms. Castillo reported that as of May 5 there were 112 confirmed enrollments. There are 132 spots to fill. On May 6, there are 12 more appointments scheduled with families. There is also a large waiting list that will be used as

more families confirm their enrollments. Ms. Castillo reports that there should be no problem obtaining the projected class size of 132. Mr. Grant Grastorf asked if there was any benefit or concern with the now finalized location of the school. Ms. Castillo stated that the school should be a good location in the enrollment efforts.

Mr. Colin Greene gave a hiring update for agenda item #5.4. He introduced new members who were present and provided copies of their resumes to the Board.

Ms. Elizabeth Nash – Learning Specialist (Social Studies Teacher)

Ms. Christina DiStanslao – Social Studies Teacher

Ms. Kimberly Friedman – English Teacher

Ms. Dahiana Sanchez – Operations Manager

Mr. Colin Greene also gave information on one additional new hire, who was unable to attend the meeting:

Ms. Elisia Morano – Teaching Assistant

The Board will welcome Elisia and other previous hires during a future Board meeting.

Those individuals include:

Ms. Alexandra Cappello – PE Teacher (Athletic Director and Teaching Assistant)

Mr. Michael Bailey – ELL Specialist

Mr. Colin Greene also gave an update on open positions. He is working diligently to fill those positions so that a full team will be in place by opening. The new hires present were welcomed by the Board of Trustees.

Ms. Heather Blumberg gave a finance update for agenda item #5.5. She provided copies of the current budget vs. actuals. Ms. Blumberg also showed the balance sheet as of April 30, 2015. There was discussion of line item 2350 “Due to Atmosphere Foundation” which should be described as a loan from Mr. Jesse Greene.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for any revisions and adoption of the Consent Agenda for agenda item #6 and #6a. There were no revisions so Mr. Mervin Burton made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mr. Michael Lagas seconded the motion. All Board members present approved and the motion was passed.

Consent Agenda Item	Description	Notes
<p>7.1</p> <p>Hiring of Social Studies Teacher, Learning Specialist, Teaching Assistant, English Teacher, and Operations Manager</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christina DiStanislao – Social Studies Teacher • Elizabeth Nash – Learning Specialist and Social Studies Teacher • Elisia Morano – Teaching Assistant • Kimberly Friedman – English Teacher • Dahiana Sanchez – Operations Manager 	<p>Per Atmosphere Academy policy, the Principal has already prepared and signed offer letters for these candidates, who do not qualify as school leaders. This vote ratifies that process.</p>

Mr. Colin Greene asked the Board to formally approve the hiring of the teachers for Consent Agenda item #7.1 and who were introduced in agenda item #5.4. As per Atmosphere Academy policy, the Principal (Mr. Greene) has already prepared and signed offer letters for the candidates and requests a formal vote. Dr. Migdalia Maldonado Torres made a motion to approve the new hires based on Mr. Colin Greene’s recommendations. Dr. Michael Lagas seconded the motion. All Board members approved and the motion passed.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for approval of an Executive Session for agenda item #8. Mr. Mervin Burton made the motion to enter Executive Session under agenda item #9. Dr. Michael Lagas seconded the motion. All Board members present approved and the motion was passed. There were discussions of CSBM and other issues related to personnel and salaries under agenda item #10. It was decided to monitor issues carefully and examine them as warranted.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for a motion to return to public session under agenda item #11. Ms. Vincenza Corcoran made the motion to return to public session. Dr. Michael Lagas seconded the motion. All Board members present approved and the motion was passed.

There was no unfinished business for agenda item #13.

There was no new business for agenda item #14.

There were no Board reports for agenda item #15.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for a motion to approve the April Board minutes. Dr. Michael Lagas made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Grant Grastorf seconded the motion. All Board members present approved and the motion passed.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Migdalia Maldonado Torres made the motion to adjourn. Ms. Vincenza Corcoran seconded the motion. All Board members present approved and the motion was passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm.