



**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

August 13, 2015

Atmosphere Academy Charter School Building
22 Marble Hill Avenue
New York, New York 10464

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Mervin Burton Ms.
Ms. Vincenza Corcoran
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.
Dr. Michael Lagas
Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres
Dr. Evan Powderly

Board Members Absent:

Mr. Grant Grastorf
Father Thomas Lynch
No public representation

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin Greene
Mrs. Rose Castillo

Dr. Evan Powderly called the meeting to order at approximately 5:27 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was waived due to no flag being on site.

The meeting was held in the library of the school.

A quorum was present for the meeting.

Since there was no public representation there were no comments from the public to record for agenda item #4.

School-Wide Updates:

- Mr. Colin Greene gave a brief update on the IPAD purchase. 2 boxes of iPads were lost in shipment by FEDEX. Apple is shipping replacement units. Claims have been filed. There should be no loss to the school.
- Ms. Rose Castillo gave a review of school policies. Included was a review of the safety plan, review of the Red Cross training for the entire staff on emergencies and defibulator training. All staff will be certified.
- Security officer interviewing continues and a hire is expected soon.
- Mr. C. Greene next discussed the agreement with the Westmoreland Sanctuary for enrichment programs and the preparation for this activity.
- Mr. C. Greene next discussed the support received by Father Lynch for the use of Our Lady of Angels space for teacher meetings before the certificate of occupancy is granted for the Marble Hill facility. The school greatly appreciates this valuable support.
- A discussion of the extended school year followed. The school will have a 190 days school year. Charter schools are expected to have extended days and extended school years.

- Mr. Burton asked to see current curriculum and Mr. Greene agreed to provide access to the materials.
- As of the date of the meeting, special education students number 35 so on total student population of 132, we are at 26.5% special education. ELLs total approximately 15%.
- Mrs. Castillo next showed the board the school uniforms and explained that the school paid for on uniform for each student. Parents pay for any additional uniforms.
- A review of the academic teams was discussed. Half of the teams have at least some special education students. Half have no special education students.

Policy Review and Approval

- The Health policy was reviewed, including how health issues will be handled. Dr. Torres asked if parents will be called and the answer given was yes. Mr. Burton asked if the nurse had other duties while no events were underway. The answer given was no. Mrs. Castillo noted that the health policy covered the nurse's work.
- The FERPA policy was reviewed. This is the parents right to their student file and the policy preventing the sharing of student files.
- The FOIA (The Freedom of Information Act) Policy was reviewed and approved via a Board vote. This outlines how to respond to requests for information. This includes how much can be charged for copied pages and when an hourly charge can be made for work performed pursuant to a request.
- The Confidentiality Policy was reviewed. This policy limits staff use of information.
- The Operations Policy was reviewed. This covers the processes by which the school is run and how it operates.
- A motion was made to adopt all of these policies by Mr. J. Greene. Mr. Burton seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

Promotion Policy Discussion

- Mr. C. Greene discussed the promotion policy with the board including how such a policy would impact any parent wishing to opt out of state exams. Atmosphere will require that students take the state exam in order to earn promotion to the next grade level. Parents will be told of the requirement.
- These exams have (4) four levels. Levels 1 and 2 are below grade level. Levels 3 and 4 are at or above grade level. Atmosphere students will be expected to earn at least a 2 in order earn promotion to the next grade level. Other criteria like academic grades will also be used in final promotion or retention decisions.
- Mr. C. Greene committed to sending student scores to the board.

Science Curriculum:

- A discussion of the Life Science course ensued. It was decided to change the course to Physical Science instead to better align with Next Generation Science Standards.

Personnel:

- As of the date of the meeting, school employees now total 21 staff with 1 pending.
- The Board voted to approve the promotion of Ms. Elizabeth Nash from Learning Specialist to Lead Learning Specialist.
- Mr. C. Greene noted his efforts to hire a Learning Specialist.
- It was noted that Lehman College will be providing student teachers or field workers.

SUNY Approval to Commence Instruction

- A review of SUNY's requests was conducted. The board was informed that the request was 90% complete.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.