



Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
 October 29th, 2015 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm
 Held at 22 Marble Hill Avenue, Bronx, New York 10463

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Mervin Burton
 Mr. Alan Dillon
 Mr. Jesse Greene
 Mr. Grant Grastorf
 Dr. Michael Lagas
 Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres

Board Members Absent:

Father Thomas Lynch
 Dr. Evan Powderly

Others in Attendance:

Ms. Heather Blumberg
 Mr. Colin Greene
 Ms. Michelle Rumph
 No public representation

The meeting was called to order at 5:05pm by Mr. Jesse Greene, acting Chairman 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 agenda items #4 and #4a. Since there were no revisions, the acting Chair asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Dr. Michael Lagas made the motion and Mr. Grant Grastorf seconded. All Board members agreed and the agenda was adopted.

Agenda Item	Description	Notes
5.1 Evaluation and Professional Development Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Colin Greene will review PD initiatives to date. 	The Board will review and discuss the PD program for staff.
5.2 Academic Program Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Colin Greene will present the latest data related to student grades and scores as well as initiatives to improve both over time. 	The Board will review and discuss student grades and scores.
5.3 Enrichment Program Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Colin Greene will present the latest developments related to the enrichment programs. 	The Board will review and discuss the progress with enrichment to date and areas for growth moving forward.

5.4 Board Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Colin Greene will review board membership with the Board. 	The Board will review board members that are leaving and vote on Alan Dillon as a new board member (pending SUNY approval).
5.5 Finance Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSBM will present the latest financial analysis and summary to the Board. 	The Board will review the numbers shared by CSBM.
5.6 Facilities Update and Lease Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Jesse Greene and Mr. Colin Greene will present the latest developments with regard to Atmosphere's current building and proposed sites for future growth. 	The Board will review and discuss various short term and long term facility projects.

Mr. Colin Greene gave the Board an Evaluation and Professional Development update for agenda item #5.1. He reported and showed evaluation documents for each department for the school. The documents included evaluation structure, timeline, terms, formal and informal observations. He also discussed various PD sessions that have taken place and that are upcoming.

Mr. Colin Greene presented the Board the latest data related to student grades and scores as well as initiatives to improve those who need intervention for improvement for agenda item #5.2.

Mr. Colin Greene gave the Board examples of Enrichment Programs that have taken place and are upcoming. Some of these enrichment programs included tour of the American Museum of Natural History, a Westmoreland trip, and took the Board on a site tour of an afterschool yoga class taking place in the building.

Mr. Colin Greene discussed Board Membership under agenda item #5.4. First, he reported that Vincenza Corcoran had to resign from the Board due to health reasons. Next, Mr. Colin Greene reported that it was the last meeting for Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres whose term ended as of October 31, 2015. He publicly thanked her for her service. Mr. Jesse Greene motioned for an official thank you and compliment to Dr. Maldonado-Torres for her service. Dr. Michael Lagas seconded the motion. All Board members present agreed!

Mr. Colin Greene then reported that it was also Mr. Grant Grastorf's last meeting as of October 31, 2015. However, he asked if Mr. Grastorf would consider serving another year. He agreed but stated he was unable to remain as Secretary of the Board. Mr. Jesse Greene made a motion to reinstate Mr. Grant Grastorf for another term. Mr. Mervin Burton seconded the motion. All Board members present approved the motion.

The last item under Board Membership is the introduction of Mr. Alan Dillon as a new member. Mr. Colin Greene asked Mr. Dillon to introduce himself and give some background information. Mr. Dillon is a Partner and President at Dillon & Dillon, LLC, a family-owned law firm involved in all aspects of commercial and negligence litigation in the New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey federal and state courts. Mr. Dillon has extensive experience in appellate practice, corporate law, and business law (including the representation of international clients in the U.S., Europe and Japan). Mr. Dillon graduated from Pace University School of Law and has served with several law firms in New York City and Westchester County. Mr. Dillon is President of the Hispanic Business and Professional Association of Westchester and President of the Armonk-Bedford Rotary Club. He is also on the Board of the Bedford Riding Lanes Association, the Hudson Valley Alzheimer's Association, the Hudson Valley Gateway Chamber of Commerce, as well as Atmosphere Foundation. Mr. Michael Lagas motioned to approve Mr. Alan Dillon as a new Board member. Mr. Jesse Greene seconded the motion. All Board members present approved the motion.

Mr. Grant Grastorf made a suggestion that a Board Membership Committee be formed to find new and replacement members if needed throughout the year. The Board will form a committee at the next meeting.

Ms. Heather Blumberg and Ms. Michelle Rumph from CSBM gave a financial update to the Board for agenda item #5.5. The summary presented included handouts regarding cash in bank, balance sheet, budget vs. actuals, and enrollment data. There was discussion about when payments from New York City are deposited and working within those payment protocols.

Mr. Jesse Greene gave a facilities update and lease review under agenda item #5.6. It was announced that space has become available at the Marble Hill location. It may be possible for Atmosphere Academy Charter School to take over space being vacated by a daycare center. The space would give the school an additional 12,500 square feet of space for the expansion of the school. There are cost considerations which need to be overcome to move forward. Mr. Jesse Greene made a motion to negotiate additional space with the landlord. Mr. Mervin Burton seconded the motion. All Board members present approved the motion.

There was also brief discussion of space on Jerome Avenue, who also is the owner of 22 Marble Hill Avenue. It was decided that this option be put on hold until more information can be obtained about the additional space at 22 Marble Hill Avenue.

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
7.1 Hiring of Physical Education Teacher and Part-Time School Aide	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Matthew Zuckerman – Physical Education Teacher and Director of Athletics• Ariel Sanchez – School Aide	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.

Mr. Colin Greene reported that a new Physical Education teacher was needed. The previous one had to depart unexpectedly. He reported that Matthew Zuckerman was offered the position. He also reported that Ariel Sanchez was offered the position of School Aide. Mr. Grant Grastorf motioned to approve the two hirings based on Mr. Colin Green's recommendations. Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres seconded the motion. All Board members present approved the motion.

There was no Executive Session, Unfinished or New Business, Staff Reports or Board Reports at this time for their respective agenda item numbers.

Mr. Jesse Greene asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Grant Grastorf made the motion. Mr. Michael Lagas seconded the motion. All Board members present agreed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.