



ATMOSPHERE ACADEMY

taking learning to new heights

Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2015

Casa de Maria Convent
2859 Webb Avenue, Room #2
Bronx, New York 10468

Board Members Attending:

Mr. Mervin Burton
Mr. Jesse Greene
Mr. Grant Grastorf
Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres
Dr. Evan Powderly

Board Members Absent:

Rev. Thomas Lynch
Dr. Michael Lagas

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Colin Greene
No public representation

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Atmosphere Academy's Board Chairperson, Dr. Evan Powderly.

Dr. Powderly requested a motion of agenda item #1 for an Executive Session if needed at the end of the meeting. Mr. Mervin Burton motioned and Mr. Jesse Greene seconded. All Board members present approved the motion.

There were no members of the public present for agenda item #1a.

There were no consent agenda items for agenda item #3a.

Next, the board heard committee reports which included:

Accountability – Mr. Colin Greene spoke to the Board in regards to developing evaluations in the near future for school leaders and teachers. The system will be based on Atmosphere's modified "Danielson + 1" rubric, which includes a 5 domain for content area. Mr. Colin Greene also spoke about methods used for teacher supervision, evaluation and professional development including: visiting, observing, conferencing, technology (video, iPad apps, etc.), data-driven feedback, modeling, mentoring and coaching. Teacher supervision components will include meetings at the start of the academic year, middle of academic year and end of the academic year in addition to various other conferences, asides, and other meetings. Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres suggested that New York State test scores be used as a starting point at the start of the year (from prior schools if none are available from Atmosphere in year 1). Per the language in Atmosphere's initial charter proposal, the evaluations will also include three individual and three school-wide goals and will be based on a total of 300 points and three tiers.

Finance – Mr. Jesse Greene updated the Board by stating that Atmosphere Academy had signed with Paycheck to handle payroll. He also stated that the CSP Grant is expected to be made the week of January 11th with a first payment of \$93,000.00. Mr. Jesse Greene also restated that JP Morgan Chase is the bank for the Atmosphere Academy. He also mentioned that expenditures were about \$3000 to

date for a Real Estate Lawyer retainer as a school facility is identified.

Governance – There was no report or change in structure of policies at this time.

The Board then discussed the following agenda items:

Agenda Item	Description	Notes
10.1 Facilities	Facilities Options DOE Space Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal submitted/filed • Awaiting outcome 	In response to the growing uncertainty around Atmosphere’s previous primary facility option, Atmosphere has identified multiple commercial real estate options in Districts 10, 9, and 7. Moreover, Atmosphere has appealed the DOE’s decision not to offer co-location space, which should result in additional per pupil.
10.2 Approval of Facilities Committee	A Facilities Committee, comprised of Trustees and staff, is needed to work on behalf of the board to secure a facility lease by the end of January.	The Facilities Committee will select the lease that offers the best financial terms in the best location.
10.3 Finance and Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payroll • QuickBooks • CSBM • Paychex • Bookkeeping • Next steps 	CSBM and Paychex will be playing a prominent role as Atmosphere begins operations.

Mr. Colin Greene gave a presentation on agenda item 10.1 (Facilities). He showed photographs of each location and discussed positive and negative aspects of each facility. The Board agreed that the best option at this time would be to pursue the facility in the Marble Hill section of the Bronx, that is located on the Bronx side of the border with Manhattan. The facility is in a good location in District #10, near public transportation, up to code, C/Oed as a school (this will be fully confirmed moving forward), and offers room to grow in future years. However, there are questions about funding for renovation costs. The early estimate from contractors was approximately \$465,000.00 to renovate, but it is possible that the price could be scaled back by working with the contractor and deferring some elements of the project. Mr. Jesse Greene and Mr. Colin Greene stated that they were going to have a conference call with NYSED to discuss what costs are or are not covered with the grant money before moving forward with formalizing a facility. All remaining expenses would have to be paid via a bridge loan or other funding source.

In regards to agenda item #10.2 (Facilities Committee), Dr. Evan Powderly asked for volunteers to serve on a Facilities Committee. Mr. Jesse Greene, Mr. Mervin Burton and Mr. Colin Greene volunteered. Dr. Evan Powderly asked for a motion to allow the Facilities Committee to move forward with a lease based on their findings on the location. Mr. Marvin Burton made the motion which was seconded by Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres. All

members of the Board present approved.

There were no reports for agenda items #11 (Unfinished Business), #12 (New Business), #13 (Staff Reports), and #14 (Board Reports).

Dr. Evan Powderly asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 16th Board meeting for agenda item #15. Mr. Jesse Greene made the motion to approve and Mr. Mervin Burton seconded. All Board members present approved.

Dr. Evan Powderly asked for a motion to enter Executive Session for agenda item #16 to discuss personnel matters and the hiring process for initial school leaders. Mr. Colin Greene provided an update on the Hiring Committee's interview of the Director of School Life candidate and shared the recommendation of the Committee. Dr. Evan Powderly then asked for a motion to exit Executive Session.

Dr. Evan Powderly asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Grant Grastorf made the motion with Dr. Migdalia Maldonado-Torres seconding the motion. All Board members present approved the motion and the meeting was adjourned at 7:05pm.