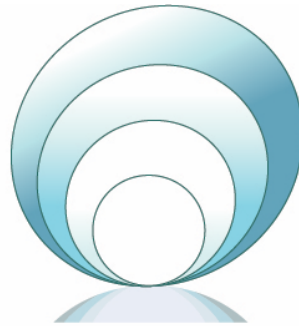


Atmosphere Academy  
October 25, 2023



**Atmosphere**  
academy

**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
October 25, 2023**

Atmosphere Academy Charter School  
Zoom Meeting

**Board Members Attending**

Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.  
Mr. Colin J. Greene (ex officio, CEO)  
Dr. Michael Lagas  
Mr. Jim Spitzer  
Mr. Alan Dillon  
Dr. Tzvi Bar-David

**Board Members Not In Attendance:**

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum  
Ms. Elizabeth Nash  
Mrs. Katherine Brennan  
Mr. Benjamin Pah  
Mr. Christian Roman  
Ms. Lona Nguyen (through item 6.3)  
Mr. Peter Markey (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Bob Keogh (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Joe Keeney (for item 6.1)  
Ms. Lizbeth Santana (for item 6.1)  
No other public in attendance

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### **Agenda Item 1. Call to Order**

At approximately 5:06 PM, Dr. Lagas called the Board meeting to order.

### **Agenda Item 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was not performed as the meeting was held over Zoom.

### **Agenda Item 3. Board Reports**

The Middle School Committee did not meet this month. The High School Committee did meet this month regarding real estate. That update will be given during executive session.

### **Agenda Item 4. Comments From the Public**

There were no comments offered.

### **Agenda Item 5. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda**

Mr. C. Greene presented the Agenda for approval by the Board.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the agenda for October.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Bar-David and Mr. Spitzer

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.1. Finance Update**

Mr. Peter Markey presented financials for the month ending September 30, 2023.

Atmosphere's general enrollment at 9/30 was 1,350. Atmosphere has more students from other districts, like Mount Vernon and Yonkers, this year as compared to previous years.

Atmosphere is billing those districts for these students. Mr. Markey presented a comparison of expenditures and revenues between this and previous years. Expenditures and revenues have both been much higher this year due to the growing size of the school population. Atmosphere had \$2.5 million in cash on hand as of 9/30. Mr. Markey commented on some of the grant

funding that has yet to be awarded. On the statement of financial position, Mr. Markey noted the new accounting standards and how they have impacted the this particular financial statement. On the statement of activities, Mr. Markey noted that Atmosphere is currently under budget for compensation, but that may change as the year progresses as it often does.

Mr. Markey and Mr. Keogh have been working to determine how the facilities allowance payments from the DOE are calculated and broken down within the per pupil payments that Atmosphere receives every two months. Mr. Keogh has reached out to the DOE for clarification.

The board asked if any planned expenditures will decrease for any line items given Atmosphere's lower enrollment than initially budgeted. Mr. C. Greene and Mr. Rosenblum spoke on some of the work that is already being done to cut the budget on certain line items, A recent schedule change, while not a major change for students, requires less funds to be spent on compensation. Asking students to fundraise for their international rewards trips also saves money, in addition to providing an important experience for scholars, a win-win. Mr. Pah spoke further on the fundraising campaigns that are being carried out with students to raise money for their international trips.

The board asked the 4th Sector team about some of the measures they will be taking for Atmosphere now that they have been with on board for almost a full month. Mr. Keogh spoke about many of the funding opportunities available to Atmosphere that have not been applied for in previous years. Mr. Rosenblum spoke to some of the Accounts Payable solutions that are being put in place to further streamline finance workflow, such as Bill.com. The board noted that they would like to see more solutions to creating accurate future cash projections that ensure sustainability for the organization.

### **Agenda Item 6.2. Board Approvals**

Mr. Rosenblum presented the board meeting minutes for September 2023.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the Board Meeting Minutes for September 2023.  
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Bar-David and Mr. Spitzer  
Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.3. High School Update**

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Mrs. Brennan provided an update on the APPR, which is a state accountability report that is required to be submitted each year analyzing data from the prior year. This is being worked on primarily by Mrs. Brennan and Ms. Nguyen, with help from other academic officers.

Mrs. Brennan also provided an update on Regents Achievement, a high school program which is led by officers during the last two periods of most school days. Scholars who need additional support or smaller and more targeted instruction will start coming in on Saturdays for extra Regents Achievement.

Mrs. Brennan also spoke about a College Admissions Course that is being created to assist scholars with the entire college application and admission process. This course will ensure scholars know how to perform research on colleges, find the best school for themselves, write application essays, complete their applications effectively and have the best opportunity to receive acceptance letters to schools that they want to attend. Atmosphere is also partnering with an organization called Method Learning, which helps students with SAT and ACT prep.

Additionally, Atmosphere took its 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade scholars to colleges and universities around New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. On average, scholars visited 6 schools, about 2 per day. Mrs. Brennan presented some pictures from the trips. During one trip, the scholars were able to meet the President of Sacred Heart University, which was a great moment for Atmosphere's students. Mr. C. Greene and Mrs. Brennan spoke further on how amazing the trips were. Certain elements can be added to this trip to bolster it moving forward, such as having pre-work for students to help them understand what they will see on each college campus and the differences between colleges and universities.

Mrs. Brennan presented on the National Hispanic College Fair. Before attending this trip, scholars were educated on how to engage with admissions officers, what questions to ask and how to present themselves as professionally as possible. Scholars were able to meet with admissions staff from many colleges and universities. After the event, scholars were asked to follow up with admissions via email to thank them for their time.

Mr. Pah presented photos from a trip to J.P. Morgan, which was held today. Students in the business career course were able to travel to J.P. Morgan's New York office. A business competition was held which all scholars participated in. J.P. Morgan staff were so impressed by Atmosphere's scholars that they began asking scholars for feedback on how to best teach Gen Z about business and finance.

### **Agenda Item 7. Executive Session**

At approximately 6:02 PM, the Board moved to enter Executive Session to discuss:

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- a) the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property or the proposed acquisition, sale, or exchange of securities, but only when publicity would substantially affect the value
- b) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation
- c) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation

Mr. J. Greene moved to enter Executive Session.  
Mr. Spitzer seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Bar-David and Mr. Spitzer  
Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 7:02 PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

Mr. J. Greene moved to exit Executive Session.  
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Bar-David and Mr. Spitzer  
Vote no: None

#### **Agenda Item 8. Consent Agenda**

There were no consent agenda items.

#### **Agenda Item 9. Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **Agenda Item 10. New Business**

There was no new business.

#### **Agenda Item 11. Adjournment**

At approximately 7:03 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.

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Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. J. Greene, Mr. Dillon, Dr. Bar-David and Mr. Spitzer  
Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.