

Atmosphere Academy  
November 29, 2023



**Atmosphere**  
academy

**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 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

**Board Members Not In Attendance:**

Dr. Tzvi Bar-David

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum  
Ms. Elizabeth Nash  
Mr. Benjamin Pah  
Mr. Christian Roman  
Ms. Lona Nguyen (after item 3)  
**4<sup>th</sup> Sector Solutions**  
Mr. Bob Keogh (through item 7.1)  
Ms. Lizbeth Santana (through item 7.1)  
Mr. Joe Keeney (through item 7.1)  
**Whiteman Osterman & Hanna**  
Mr. Bob McLaughlin (through item 7.2)  
**Avison Young**  
Mr. Martin Cottingham (for item 3)  
Mr. Patrick Steffens (for item 3)  
Mr. Michael Gottlieb (for item 3)  
Mr. Jeffrey Burger (for item 3)  
**RBC**  
Mr. Paul Clancy (for item 3)  
**McKenna Financial Planning**  
Mr. Jason McKenna (for item 3)  
**UB Pensions**  
Mr. Joel Howell (for item 3)  
No other public in attendance

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

At approximately 5:09 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. Executive Session**

At approximately 5:10 PM, the Board moved to enter Executive Session to discuss:

- 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) 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. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 6:40 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 and Mr. Spitzer

Vote no: None

### **Agenda Item 4. Board Reports**

The Middle School Committee and High School Committee did meet this month. Those updates will be provided as part of the remaining agenda.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Comments From the Public**

There were no comments offered.

#### **Agenda Item 6. Revision and Adoption of the Agenda**

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

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the agenda for November.  
Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

#### **Agenda Item 7.1. Finance Update**

Ms. Lizbeth Santana presented the financials for the month ending 10/31/2023. The cash balance at the end of October was \$4 million+, largely driven by the per pupil funding that was received at the end of October. Ms. Santana presented the enrollment numbers as of 10/31/2023. The financial dashboard now has an FTE count, which is based on seat time, as well as an actual enrollment count, the number of students presently enrolled, as of month end. This allows the board to see any current differences between these two key metrics, one of which (FTE) is used by the DOE every two months to determine Atmosphere's next round of per pupil funding. Ms. Santana moved on to discuss billing for students who live in Yonkers and Mount Vernon, which is currently underway.

Ms. Santana noted that the 4<sup>th</sup> Sector finance team is diligently monitoring and tagging grant expenses for Title grants so those funds can be requested in the near future. Ms. Santana then discussed the SUNY benchmarks for financial success. At 10/31/2023, Atmosphere meets two out of three benchmarks. The board discussed the financial benchmarks and what they indicate.

Ms. Santana presented Atmosphere's balance sheet. Prepaid expenses were significantly higher this year, which is primarily related to Atmosphere's international trips. The other significant

increase is related to accounts payable, which includes multiple large orders. Other items like the staff merit bonus and 401k match took precedent over certain accounts payable in October. Ms. Santana touched on the Statement of Activities, which will include a more robust projection in future board meetings. There have been some savings in certain line items, such as compensation and facilities. These savings are as a result of items being budgeted for that were not actually purchased, such as rental payments for Waldo Avenue in August, September and October. There are no significant overages, but some line items went over budget, such as technology and office expenses.

### **Agenda Item 7.2. Board Approvals**

Mr. McLaughlin presented the Resolution of Board of Trustees as discussed in Executive Session for approval by the Board.

Mr. Dillon moved to approve the Resolution.  
Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

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

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

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

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.3. High School Update**

Due to time constraints, this topic will be covered at the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7.4. Middle School Update**

Due to time constraints, this topic will be covered at the next meeting.

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

Atmosphere Academy  
November 29, 2023

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 7:08 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.