

Atmosphere Academy  
March 27, 2024



**Atmosphere**  
academy

**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
March 27, 2024**

Atmosphere Academy Charter School  
Zoom Meeting

**Board Members Attending**

Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.  
Dr. Michael Lagas  
Mr. Colin J. Greene (ex officio, CEO)

**Board Members Not In Attendance:**

Mr. Jim Spitzer  
Mr. Alan Dillon

**Others in Attendance:**

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum  
Ms. Elizabeth Nash  
Mr. Benjamin Pah  
Mr. Christian Roman  
Ms. Katherine Brennan  
Ms. Sabrina Marion (for item 6.1)  
Ms. Sanda Amarasinghe (for item 6.1)  
Ms. Sumaiya Sarawat (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Duke Jumah (for item 6.1)  
Mr. Reginald Jay (for item 6.1)  
Ms. Lona Nguyen (after item 6.1)

**Avison Young**

Mr. Martin Cottingham (for item 6.1)

**4<sup>th</sup> Sector Solutions**

Mr. Bob Keogh (for item 7.1)  
Ms. Lizbeth Santana (for item 7.1)  
Mr. Joe Keeney (for item 7.1)  
No other public in attendance

**Agenda Item 1. Call to Order**

At approximately 5:08 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 and High School Committee did meet this month. Those updates will be provided as part of the remaining agenda.

**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. J. Greene moved to approve the agenda for March.  
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

**Agenda Item 6.1. 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,

Atmosphere Academy  
March 27, 2024

demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation

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

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

After the discussion, at approximately 7:07 PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

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

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

### **Agenda Item 7.1. Board Approvals**

The board will approve meeting minutes at future board meetings due to the number of members missing from the meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7.2. Finance Update**

Ms. Santana presented the financials for the month ending February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The cash balance at February month end was \$4.4 million. This includes the fifth round of per pupil received for the year. Ms. Santana noted the slight decrease in FTE between January and February. Mr. Rosenblum spoke to efforts being made now to backfill seats of students who leave our school mid-year. Atmosphere has had students transfer out mid-year for multiple reasons, including moving out of state.

Ms. Santana discussed the anticipated title grants to be received by the end of August 2024. She continued by presenting the SUNY financial benchmarks. Two of the benchmarks improved for month end in February given the higher amount of cash on hand due to the per pupil funding received.

Ms. Santana presented the balance sheet. Grants receivables have declined since FY23 year end given the decrease in grant funding available to Atmosphere this year. Prepaid expenses have gone up since year end given the increase in volume of internal trips. Fixed assets have increased due to the addition of Atmosphere's new building on Waldo Avenue. Some accrued payroll is still sitting on the balance sheet due to officer bonuses that will soon be paid out.

There were two trustee loans in February. The balance of each loan is \$0 as they were paid off prior to February month end as soon as the per pupil funds were received. The board discussed an upcoming trustee loan in April prior to month end. The board discussed the amount that would be needed and the timing of the loan.

Ms. Santana spoke about some of the debit card coding work that is being done. The hope is to get all "Other Expenses" moved to the proper lines based on their codes. The transactions need to be coded before this can be done. Ms. Santana noted the net deficit projected at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Greene noted that work has been done to get that number closer to break even. Updated numbers will be presented to the board at the next meeting.

### **Agenda Item 7.3. Attendance Update**

Mr. Roman presented an attendance update. The NYC DOE chronic absenteeism (defined by NYSED as 18+ absences for the year) rate has decreased since SY 21-22. Atmosphere wants to ensure they remain well below the DOE when it comes to chronic absenteeism. In SY 22-23, Atmosphere's chronic absenteeism rate was 22%. The goal is to remain below that number for SY 23-24.

Ms. Nguyen noted that a handful of students are carrying the chronic absenteeism numbers. For example, one student who transferred out of Atmosphere had 35 absences. Atmosphere has started tracking absences between quarters to ensure students who have increased absences from quarter to quarter are addressed and supported.

### **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 7:42 PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Atmosphere Academy  
March 27, 2024

Mr. J. Greene moved to adjourn.  
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned.