

Atmosphere Academy
August 28, 2024



Atmosphere
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**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**
August 28, 2024

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
Zoom Meeting

Board Members Attending

Dr. Michael Lagas
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.
Mr. James Spitzer (joined after agenda approval)
Mr. Colin J. Greene (ex officio, CEO)

Board Members Not In Attendance:

Mr. Alan Dillon

Others in Attendance:

Atmosphere
Mr. Christian Roman
Ms. Lona Nguyen
Ms. Lean Litvak

4th Sector Solutions

Ms. Lizbeth Santana (for item 6.2)
Mr. Bob Keogh (for item 6.2)
Mr. Joe Keeney (for item 6.2)
No other public in attendance

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Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:03 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

Committee topics were covered in Board meeting topics. So no committee reports were given.

Agenda Item 4. Comments From the Public

There was no public in attendance and therefore no comments were 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 August.
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

Mr. Spitzer joined the meeting.

Agenda Item 6.1. Board Approvals

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the minutes to the July Board meeting.
Mr. Lagas seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Mr. J. Greene, Dr. Lagas, Mr. Spitzer
Vote No: none

Agenda Item 6.2. Finance Update

Ms. Lizbeth Santana presented the financial report for July and preliminary results for the fiscal year just ended. She reviewed all key elements of the financial package. Key points of discussion were the preliminary student population assumption and expected future adjustment to actual, the budget student population assumptions, the non NYC students expected and the Atmosphere billing start for them, the recent receipt of the DOE payments, the accounts payable pay down, compensation payouts and other matters. Mr. Roman discussed students returning to Atmosphere even though they had originally planned to go elsewhere. Ms. Santana also covered grants in process, SUNY benchmark financial indicators and where Atmosphere performs relative to them, and various aspects of the balance sheet. The board discussed the timing of new hires and the financial impact. Ms. Santana also discussed the process to complete the audit and the expectation of no significant changes as final details are finished,

The board asked about a cash projection to the next DOE payment. Ms. Santana expected that to take a few more days to develop.

Mr. C. Greene discussed the new lease of significant space from Manhattan college and his efforts to get a payment from DOE to cover near term rent before they build that lease structure into their regular payments. He also noted the upcoming rent escalation at the Marble Hill building that is required in the lease.

Mr. C. Greene also discussed the continuing search for a Finance Director. He has many resumes but needs to review and select best candidates.

Agenda Item 6.3. MS Achievement Update

Ms. Lena Litvak, Ms. Lona Nguyen and Mr. C. Greene discussed the preliminary 2023-2024 Middle School (grade 6-8) English and Math Test Results. The overall results are very positive with good overall proficiency levels, improving trends and superior performance compared to New York State results as a whole. Mr. Greene noted that the performance is the result of the school constantly adjusting and adapting new processes and teaching protocols to increase effectiveness of instruction. The details below this preliminary data will be explored at future meetings.

Mr. C. Greene complimented the work of Ms. Litvak for her analysis of the results. He also noted how the instruction process has evolved with the teachers now leading the instructional process and therefore the improving results. Flexibility to adapt, and communication to staff of their role, and contribution, is a big part of this success.

The board asked for comparison data to local districts. That will be available for discussion in September.

Agenda Item 7.1. Executive Session

At approximately 6 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) discussions regarding proposed, pending or current litigation

Mr. J. Greene moved to enter Executive Session.

Mr. J. Spitzer seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 6:47 PM, the Board moved to exit executive session.

Mr. Dillon moved to exit Executive Session.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

Vote Aye: Dr. Lagas, Mr. J. Greene, 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.

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Agenda Item 11. Adjournment

At approximately 6:49PM the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. J. Spitzer moved to adjourn.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Meeting adjourned.