

Atmosphere Academy
July 31, 2024



Atmosphere
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**Atmosphere Academy Public Charter Schools
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
July 31, 2024**

Atmosphere Academy Charter School
Zoom Meeting

Board Members Attending

Dr. Michael Lagas
Mr. Jesse J. Greene, Jr.
Mr. Alan Dillon
Mr. Colin J. Greene (ex officio, CEO)
Mr. Jim Spitzer (for item 6.4 onward)

Board Members Not In Attendance:

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Gabriel Rosenblum
Mr. Christian Roman
Ms. Lona Nguyen (for items 6.2-6.5)
Mr. Benjamin Pah (for item 6.1)

Atmosphere

Ms. Sanda Amarasinghe
Ms. Sumaiya Sarawat
Mr. Osiris Stephen
Ms. Ashley Martinez

4th Sector Solutions

Ms. Lizbeth Santana (for item 6.4)
Mr. Bob Keogh (for item 6.4)
Mr. Joe Keeney (for item 6.4)
No other public in attendance

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Agenda Item 1. Call to Order

At approximately 5:04 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 not meet this month.

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 July.
Dr. Lagas seconded the motion.

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

Motion adopted. Agenda approved.

Agenda Item 6.1. Officer Update

Mr. C. Greene welcomed Mr. Ben Pah to the board meeting. Mr. Pah recently left his position as Chief Program Officer to take a new position as Executive Director of Suit Up NYC. Mr. C. Greene noted Mr. Pah's achievements at Atmosphere over the course of 8 years and thanked him for his time. Mr. Pah thanked Mr. C. Greene and the board for the opportunity. The board thanked Mr. Pah for all of his work at Atmosphere over the years and wished him good luck.

Agenda Item 6.2. Technology Update

Ms. Sanda Amarasinghe (MS Operations Leader), Ms. Sumaiya Sarawat (HS Operations Leader) and Mr. Osiris Stephen (Safety and Technology Manager) joined the meeting to discuss recent technology updates.

Ms. Amarasinghe discussed the chromebook distribution process that was in place at the beginning of SY23-24, including the chromebook tracker that was utilized and the equipment loan form that families were required to fill out. Ms. Sarawat discussed some of the issues with the chromebook process or tracker. The tracker was missing serial numbers, not all students received a chromebook, and grade teams were using different color-coding systems. These inconsistencies led to improper tracking during the school year. Additionally, the chromebook incident report process was not in place until late in the year and was not enforced until late in the year. The board asked about collecting a deposit for chromebooks. Mr. Rosenblum noted that the team will discuss this option. Mr. C. Greene touched on some reasons against charging a deposit. The board asked if the chromebooks could be tracked. Mr. Stephen noted that the new model chromebooks purchased through Dell can be tracked, but not the older models. Mr. Rosenblum noted that the older models will be phased out in future years. Mr. C. Greene noted that in the future, chromebooks must be dealt with urgency. When an issue is flagged, it must be addressed immediately or else it will be too late. Ms. Amarasinghe, Ms. Sarawat and Mr. Stephen discussed steps being taken for SY24-25 to ensure better reporting and management is in place. These include improvements to the chromebook tracker and improvements to quality control to ensure this is audited on a regular basis.

Agenda Item 6.3. High School Placement Update

Ms. Ashley Martinez joined the meeting to discuss recent high school placement updates. Almost 70% of Atmosphere 8th graders are continuing with Atmosphere to 9th grade. Almost 10% are going to parochial schools, 14% are going to public schools (some of which are low tier), over 2% are going to specialized high schools and 3% are going to other charter schools. The goal is for students to go to the high school that best suits them. In many cases, that high school is Atmosphere as evidenced by the numbers. Ms. Martinez noted that she expects certain students, especially those currently attending public schools, to return to Atmosphere before the start of the school year. The board asked what Atmosphere can do to retain students who seem to be leaving. Many families noted being closer to home as one of the reasons for leaving Atmosphere. Ms. Martinez also noted that Atmosphere should start promoting its high school starting in September, as that is when other school applications open. Letting students know what Atmosphere offers before they start looking at other schools will help. The board and Ms. Martinez discussed other ways to retain more students as they move from 8th grade to 9th grade.

Agenda Item 6.4. Finance Update

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Ms. Santana presented the financials for the month ending 6/30/2024. Ms. Santana noted that these numbers are still preliminary as there are still some items being reconciled, such as the per pupil reconciliation which was due to the DOE today.

Atmosphere's cash position at the end of June is similar to where it was last year. Enrollment has not changed since last month's board meeting. Nothing significant was discussed on AP aging, except that most FY24 AP has been paid off. Ms. Santana noted a surplus of \$1.3M+ in June 2024 due to accrued revenues from the ERC funds that Atmosphere expects to receive.

On the balance sheet, Ms. Santana noted that grants receivable was lower in FY24 than FY23. Last year, Atmosphere was paid money back on the per pupil reconciliation. This year, Atmosphere owes money after reconciliation. The large receivable figure in FY24 as the entries for ERC and FEMA were booked to FY24. Some other checks received in June were also received in July but accrued in FY24, such as a donation check that we expected to receive in June. There are no currently outstanding loans on the balance sheet. The board asked if Atmosphere has heard anything else regarding the ERC funding. Ms. Santana noted that her team has been calling the IRS and has been told that we will be provided an update in the next few weeks. The information has been difficult to get.

The board had a discussion about FEMA and ERC and when to accrue the funds given the current situation.

Agenda Item 6.5. Board Approvals

Mr. Rosenblum presented the board meeting minutes for June 2024.

Mr. J. Greene moved to approve the minutes.

Mr. Dillon seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

Motion adopted. Minutes approved.

Mr. Rosenblum discussed the SY23-24 Annual Report which was recently prepared by CSBM. The report will be signed tomorrow.

Agenda Item 7.1. Executive Session

At approximately 6:52 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

Mr. Dillon moved to enter Executive Session.

Mr. J. Greene seconded the motion.

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

Vote no: None

After the discussion, at approximately 7:30 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, Mr. Spitzer and Mr. Dillon

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 7:31 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. Spitzer and Mr. Dillon

Vote no: None

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Meeting adjourned.