



Board Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the NYC Autism Charter School (NYCACCS) met on Monday, June 15, 2015 at the NYC Autism Charter School 433 East 100th Street New York, NY 10029

Attending Trustees:

Carol Santiago
Ashley Garrett
Chas Chigas
Benjamin Hartman
Hugh O'Rourke
Alvin Shih*
Hannah Hoch*
*pending DOE approval

Absent Trustees:

Ilene Lainer
Maureen Bateman
Mitchel Baum
Paul O'Neill*

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Mark Saretsky, Chief Financial Officer
Nicole Pearson, Director of Education
Veronica Pichardo, Executive Administrative Assistant
Susan Michaelson, Quality Assurance Manager

1. Call to order

Ms. Santiago, President, called the general meeting to order at 5:10pm.

2. Board Business

- o The minutes of May 18, 2015 meeting were reviewed. **Action: A vote was taken and the minutes of May 18, 2015 were approved.**

3. Governance

- a. Given Ms. Santiago's new role as President, a shift in parent representative and corresponding term was discussed. Chas Chigas is the new parent representative with a one year term. Carol Santiago will now have a regular Trustee term of three years.
- b. Board responsibilities: Email will be sent with key responsibilities for each committee

Action: A vote was taken that approved Mr. Chigas assuming the role of parent representative (1 year term) and Ms. Santiago, President, as a full term (3 years) Trustee.

4. Committee Reports

a. Operations

- **Renewal Update:**
- Susan Michaelson reported that NYC Autism Charter School has been renewed for another 5 years.
- **Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge Update**
 - NYC Autism Charter School received 2nd place in the Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge and received a \$15,000 donation to support efforts with expansion. A report will be distributed at the next meeting.
 - NYC Autism Charter School also received a grant from Natixis Global Asset Management (Mr. Chigas' company) for approximately \$6000 (5000 Euros).
- **Management Consulting Update**
 - CEI-PEA conducted a two-day organizational assessment (focusing on administrative function). Once the report is finalized, it will be distributed to Trustees. In addition, a meeting will be scheduled with designated Trustees and Frank San Felice from CEI-PEA.
- **Staffing Update**
 - Ms. Pearson reported that 8 new interns are starting and staying throughout the summer.
 - 4 Teachers have resigned. 2 classroom staff are being promoted from within to Head Teacher. 2 more teachers will need to be identified. Several interviews are scheduled for the following weeks.
- **Education and Outreach Update**
 - Ms. Pearson reported that all three Clinical Supervisors presented a poster at the Association for Behavior Analysis International Convention in San Antonio Texas.
 - One student will be leaving in July and the NYC Autism Charter School will be filling the spot in September.
 - Another student may be moving to a residential setting at some point during the year. The school is in discussion with the DOE to identify an appropriate placement.

- Staff continue to work on transitioning a another student to a less restrictive environment.

b. Finance Review

- **Per Pupil Allocation Update**

- Mr. Saretsky reported that per pupil rate would not be increased at this time. The DOE thought NYC Autism Charter School had adequate funding for now. NYCACS requested reimbursement for the cost of the program. The DOE is willing to fund more students at our current rate.

- **Fundraising Update**

- Mr. Saretsky reported that because of the extraordinary efforts by the parent committee, NYCACS ended with \$157,000 from fundraising efforts - higher than the \$129,500 budgeted.

- **Proposed FY2016 Budget**

- Mr. Saretsky presented a proposed operating budget for FY2016. He indicated that this budget resulted in a small deficit due to higher expenses and no change in the DOE per pupil rate. **Action: A vote was taken approving the FY2016 budget.**

4. Additional Items and Public Comment

- None

5. Closing Items

- The Public Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.