



Board Meeting Minutes

June 13th, 2016 - 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of the NYC Autism Charter School (NYCACS) met on Monday, June 13th, 2016 at the NYC Autism Charter School 433 East 100th Street New York, NY10029

Attending Trustees:

Carol Santiago
Rick Larios
Hugh O'Rourke
Mitchel Baum
Alvin Shih
Ashley Garrett
Chas Chigas

Absent Trustees

Hannah Hoch
Benjamin Hartman
Paul O'Neill
Ilene Lainer

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Mark Saretsky, Chief Financial Officer
Susan Michaelson, Special Education Compliance Specialist
Christina Secharan, Executive Administrative Assistant

1. Call to order

Action: Ms. Santiago called the general meeting to order at 5:09pm.

2. Board Business

- a.** At 5:10pm the minutes of May 9th, 2016 meeting were reviewed. **Action:** Ms. Garrett requested a motion to approve minutes. Mr. O'Rourke seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and the minutes were unanimously approved.
- b.** At 5:10pm the minutes of May 25th, 2016 emergency meeting were reviewed. Mr. Baum requested a motion to approve and Mr. Larios seconded the motion. The Board voted and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. General Updates

a. Head of School Recruitment Update

- At 5:11pm Ms. Fisher updates the Board on the recent interview with Jennifer Connelly for the Head of School position. NYCACS has offered Ms. Connelly the position, which she accepted, with the start date of 09/01/2016. NYCACS is currently conducting interviews for the second Head of School position.

b. PICCS Grant

- At 5:16pm Ms. Fisher discusses the PICCS (Partnership for Innovation in Collaboration for Charter Schools). The CEI (Center for Educational Innovation) regularly receives TIF Grants (Teacher Incentive Funds), which are federal grants. Funds received are used to fund CEI's PICCS Program, in which they work with a small number of charter schools helping them recruit, support, and retain staff at different levels (through both direct funding and other support) over a five-year period.
- At 5:19pm Mr. Saretsky explains the benefits and concerns with our potential involvement in the PICCS Program. Some benefits include the support provided and the funding for the first five years. Of the concern is what happens at the end of the five-year period, when structural changes have been made but we stop receiving funding. Additionally, timing of involvement was raised as a concern given the amount of work required for replication.
- At 5:31pm it is decided that Ms. Fisher will schedule a conference call with Ms. Carter, Project Manager for PICCS Grant in order hear her responses to the above mentioned concerns.

4. Committee Update

a. Finance

- Bronx Funding Update
 - i. At 5:35pm Mr. Saretsky informs the Board on possible start up funding for the Bronx Charter site. There is a \$750K CSP Grant, which we have been advised we are eligible to receive but NYCACS still needs to submit the application. Additionally, the CEI is working with the Walton Family Foundation to secure start up funding for a small group of expanding charter schools, including NYCACS. Finally, the Charter School Growth Fund is re-visiting the school next week with their investment partners to evaluate what, if any, funding would be appropriate for our unique program.
- FY 2016 YTD Financials
 - i. At 5:45pm Mr. Saretsky reviews 2016 financials and YTD we are on plan as projected to end the year with a \$50K deficit.
- Proposed FY2017 EH Budget
 - i. At 5:54pm Mr. Saretsky reviews the proposed FY2017 operating budget. Ordinary operations costs will increase by 2.7% with the assumptions of no change in the per pupil revenue, and Operations Committee agreed to a salary increase, increase in health insurance cost, increase in bonus pool, etc.
 - ii. At 6:00pm Mr. Saretsky discusses the Bronx planning year for 2017 with the cost of \$255K, with the understanding that if we do not receive any of the grants mentioned earlier, will have to be taken out of reserves as agreed.
 - iii. At 6:03pm Mr. Saretsky asks the Board if they have any questions before the Board votes on the fiscal year 2017 EH operating budget. **Action:** Mr. Baum motions to approve the planning year budget. Ms. Garrett seconds the motion in which the Board voted, and unanimously approved.

b. Governance

- Board Self Evaluations Results
 - i. At 6:13pm Ms. Santiago suggests that the Board Self Evaluations and upcoming year planning be discussed in July's Board meeting since it is typically a time for review.
- Trustee Terms
 - i. At 6:16pm Ms. Fisher informs the Board that terms for the following members, Mr. Chigas, Mr. Baum, Ms. Lainer and Mr. O'Rourke, are all coming up for expiration/renewal. All members up for renewal have expressed an interest in continuing for another term.
 - ii. At 6:19pm Mr. Chigas leaves the room for the Board to vote on his one term/ one-year renewal. **Action:** Ms. Garrett motions the renewal and Mr. Larios seconds the motion, in which the Board votes and it is unanimously approved.
 - iii. Mr. Chigas returns and Mr. O'Rourke leaves the room for the Board to vote on his one term/three-year renewal. **Action:** Ms. Garrett motions the renewal and Mr. Larios seconds the motion, in which the Board votes and it is unanimously approved.
 - iv. Mr. O'Rourke returns and Mr. Baum leaves the room for the Board to vote on his one term/three year renewal. **Action:** Ms. Garrett motions the renewal and Mr. Larios seconds the motion, in which the Board votes and it is unanimously approved.
 - v. Mr. Baum returns and then the Board votes on Ms. Lainer's one term/ three-year renewal. **Action:** Ms. Garrett motions the renewal and Mr. Larios seconds the motion, in which the Board votes and it is unanimously approved.
- Meeting Schedule
 - i. At 6:25pm Ms. Fisher presents the upcoming year Board Meeting Schedule to be reviewed by Trustees.

5. Additional Items and Public Comment

6. Closing Items

- a. **Action:** Ms. Garrett motions to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Shih seconds the motion, in which the Boards votes and it is unanimously approved.