

Board Meeting Minutes

May 18, 2015

The Board of Trustees of the NYC Autism Charter School (NYCACs) met on Monday, March 18, 2015 at the NYC Autism Charter School 433 East 100th Street New York, NY 10029

Attending Trustees:

Carol Santiago
Mitchel Baum
Ashley Garrett
Ilene Lainer
Hugh O'Rourke
Maureen Bateman
Chas Chigas
Alvin Shih*

Absent Trustees:

Benjamin Hartman

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Mark Saretsky, Chief Financial Officer
Moirra Cray, Director of Transition and Community Outreach
Nicole Pearson, Director of Education
Joy Resmovits, writer from the Huffington Post
Veronica Pichardo, Executive Administrative Assistant

*Pending DOE Office of School Design and Charter Partnership approval

1. Call to order

Mr. O'Rourke, Vice President, called the general meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. Board Business

- The minutes of March 16, 2015 meeting were reviewed. **Action: A vote was taken and the minutes of March 16, 2014 were approved**

3. Governance

- a. Vote on Presidential Nominee:
- b. Carol Santiago was nominated for President of the Board.
- c. Two new Trustees were also nominated - Paul O'Neill and Hannah Hoch.

Action: A vote was taken approving Carol Santiago as President of the Board effective May 18th, 2015.

Action: A vote was taken approving Paul O'Neill and Hannah Hoch as Trustees, pending approval by the DOE Office of School Design and Charter Partnerships.

4. Committee Reports

a. Operations

- **Renewal Update**

- Ms. Fisher reported that the DOE site visit went well. A decision regarding the school's per-pupil funding rate is now in the hands of the DOE. The DOE offered very positive feedback about the school. As a result, a full 5-year renewal is expected. Ms. Fisher will attend the Board of Regents vote in June.

- **Compensation**

- There has been a comprehensive review of salaries and benefits with the Operations Committee to ensure the school remains competitive and fair in its compensation package.
- Staff retention at the teacher level is a concern.
- A recommendation was made to raise base pay for Teachers to \$55,000 and adjust salaries for existing teachers.

Action: A vote was taken to raise the base salary to \$55,000 and adjust current teacher salaries.

- **Student Discharge/Enrollment/Graduation**

- One student has left NYCACS and is now enrolled in a residential program.
- One or two additional students will likely leave for residential settings this year, and one is scheduled to graduate to a less restrictive setting.
- One new student has just joined NYCACS.

- **Morgan Stanley Strategy Challenge**

- The Morgan Stanley strategy challenge team has been helping with planning for expansion. Their final presentation is scheduled for May 20, 2015.
- Ms. Fisher will report on the outcome at the next Board meeting

- **Outreach**

- Three NYCACS staff members presented at the YAI International conference recently.
- A peer mentoring day brought students from MESA Charter School to NYCACS. Several of their students were paired up with ours. Students from AIM Academy also visited.
- Museo Del Barrio, one of our work internship program partners, will be presenting on their work with NYCACS students.
- The annual Baseball Extravaganza was very successful, bringing some major league players and the head of the MLBPA.
- NYCACS will be working with JobPath to provide internship and jobs for three of our oldest students.

- Mr. Saretsky updated the Trustees on the year-to date financials, including a forecast for the remainder of the fiscal year. It was indicated that fundraising proceeds were exceeding plan. Mr. Saretsky indicated that due to expense savings and additional fundraising revenue it is anticipated that the school would end the fiscal year with a surplus. Some funds will be attributed to expansion planning.
- Mr. Saretsky indicated that the fiscal year 2016 budget would be presented to the Board at the June 15 meeting. Interim reviews with the Finance Committee will take place in June.

4. Additional Items and Public Comment

- None

5. Closing Items

- The Public Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

DRAFT