



Board Meeting Minutes

February 12th, 2018 - 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACs) met on Monday, February 12th, 2018 at NYCACS East Harlem, 433 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029.

Attending Trustees:

Alvin Shih
Alysia Steinmann
Ashley Garrett
Carol Santiago (Video Conferenced)
Christine Sandler
Hugh O'Rourke
Ilene Lainer
Naeema Livingston (Tele-conferenced)
Pier LeGendre
Ben Hartman
Rick Larios (Video Conferenced)

Absent Trustees:

Hannah Hoch
Alberto Garcia
Paul O'Neill
Mitch Baum

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Mark Saretsky, Chief Financial Officer
Maira Cray, Director of Transition and Community Outreach
Khalid Daniels, Director of Operations
Jessica Seeman, Head of School East Harlem
Jennifer Connelly, Head of School Bronx (Video Conferenced)
Susan Michaelson, Special Education Compliance Officer
Christina Secharan, Executive Administrative Assistant

1. Call to order

- a. **Action:** Ms. Santiago called the NYCACS general meeting to order at 5:02pm.

2. School Updates - Bronx

a. Status of New Space

- **March Public Hearing**

- i. At 5:03pm Ms. Fisher provided an update on the Bronx school re-siting for the next school year. A formal deputy chancellor walk through has been performed and the next step is a public hearing that will occur on March 12. Trustees were encouraged to attend.

b. Game Plan for Renovation

- **Bids will go to Operations Committee in advance of next meeting for March vote**
 - i. At 5:10pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that they are still obtaining bids and will circle back with the Operations Committee. Some of the renovation costs will be covered by grants.

3. Board Business

a. Minutes from 01-22-18

- At 5:14pm the minutes of January 22, 2018 NYCACS Board meeting were reviewed. **Action:** Ms. Sandler motioned to approve the minutes and Ms. Garrett seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

4. School Updates – East Harlem

a. Decision Around Space Upgrades

- At 5:15pm Ms. Fisher discussed the furniture and painting bids. Ms. Sandler had some suggestions on lowering the painting costs and will reach out to her contacts to provide more information.

b. AC Project

- At 5:21pm Ms. Fisher suggested putting a hold on the AC installation for the third hallway, and shift the budgeted money to furniture upgrades. Instead, the Board suggested to proceed with the AC installation and to do a Kickstarter campaign to purchase furniture.

5. Additional Updates

a. Technology

• Shift in Service Provider

- i. At 5:42pm Ms. Fisher and Mr. Saretsky discussed the decision to end the contract they have with MindShift. Ms. Fisher will continue to research next steps for MindShift, allowing the school to terminate the current contract and ensure that necessary information for the new, proposed, technology firm is transferred.

• Additional Support

- i. At 5:46pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that she had met with a candidate referred by Mr. Shih to fill the role of a Technology Advocate. The Technology Advocate, would be an additional layer of support to assist with the on-boarding of the new technology firm and would be on site for a few hours per week as additional support to staff. Ms. Fisher requested a vote to allocate \$15,000 per year for a Technology Advocate. **Action:** Mr. Hartman motioned to approve the \$15,000 per year to hire a Technology Advocate. Ms. Lainer seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and it was unanimously approved.

b. DOE/ Per Pupil Allocation Working Group

- At 5:52pm Ms. Fisher updated the Board about the Per Pupil Allocation Working Group meeting that occurred right before the Board meeting. There was a discussion about the possibility of hiring a lobbying firm that can advocate on behalf of NYCACS to attempt to address the schools' per pupil funding, which has

been frozen since the 2011-2012 school year.

c Pro Bono Legal Assistance

- At 5:55pm Ms. Fisher proposed to put in an application with a pro bono legal assistance firm. The Board agreed that it is in the best interest for NYCACS to move forward with the application process.

d Finance Update

- At 5:57pm Mr. Saretsky provided an update on NYCACS's finances. Mr. Saretsky and Mr. O'Rourke will provide a savings plan by the next Board meeting. The Board agreed that the discussion of finance should be at the beginning of all Board meeting agendas in the future.

6. Closing Items

- **Action:** Ms. Lainer motioned to adjourn the NYCACS Board Meeting. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:21pm.