



Board Meeting Minutes

May 14th, 2018 – 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACs) met on Monday, May 14th, 2018 at NYCACS East Harlem, 433 East 100th Street, New York, NY 10029.

Attending Trustees:

Alberto Garcia
Alysia Steinmann
Ashley Garrett
Ben Hartman
Carol Santiago
Hannah Hoch
Hugh O'Rourke
Mitch Baum (Video Conferenced)
Naeema Livingston
Paul O'Neill (Video Conferenced)
Rick Larios (Video Conferenced)

Absent Trustees:

Alvin Shih
Christine Sandler
Ilene Lainer
Pier LeGendre

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
Susan Michaelson, Special Education Compliance Officer
Christina Secharan, Executive Administrative Assistant

1. Call to order

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

2. Board Business

a. Minutes from Board Meeting 04-16-18

- At 5:03pm the minutes of the April 16th, 2018 Board meeting were reviewed. Ms. Steinmann noted that she was present at the April meeting via tele-conferencing. **Action:** Ms. Steinmann motioned to approve the April 16th, 2018 meeting minutes with the amendment related to her attendance. Mr. O'Rourke seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Finance Committee

a. Preliminary FY19 Budget Discussion

- At 5:04pm Mr. Saretsky provided an update on the current financials for each site. The East Harlem school has an operating deficit of \$15,000 for the end of March. The budget for the year has a deficit of \$50,000, with a forecasted deficit of \$70,000. The Bronx will break even by the end of the year due to an operating grant. The Finance committee has been working closely with Ms. Fisher on next year's budget. They are eliminating painting, staff travel to conferences, and reduced the capital expenditures on next year's budget. The draft budget will be submitted at the next Board meeting to be voted on.

4. School Update – Bronx

a. Fall Re-siting

- At 5:22pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that the Bronx school will receive the original footprint at the new site (x198) detailed by the Department of Education.

b. Student Progress

- At 5:24pm Ms. Connelly presented student progress to the Board.

5. School Update – East Harlem

a. Temporary Re-location (Summer)

- At 5:33pm Ms. Fisher provided an update on the re-location site for the East Harlem school during the summer. Dream High School has offered their space and NYCACS is now working on obtaining bussing, school security, food and all other operation related services and materials needed for the temporary re-location. The last day at M050 is June 26th and the first day of summer session (Dream High School) is July 5th.

b. Phones

- At 5:42pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that Mr. Daniels is continuing to contact the DOE and Verizon on the main phone line issues. There was some discussion about securing an internet based phone system. Given the costs, it was decided to hold off until more information is gathered related to next steps on repair.

6. Additional Updates

a. Annual Accountability Goals

- At 5:52pm Ms. Fisher discussed the update on the annual accountability goals. Ms. Fisher has been working in collaboration with SUNY on these metrics, which were sent to Trustees in advance of the meeting for review. **Action:** Ms. Hoch motioned to approve the updated annual accountability goals. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion in which the Board voted and it was unanimously approved.

b. Alternate Path to Certification

- At 6:00pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that SUNY has the ability to approve alternate pathways to teacher certification. If the NYCACS proposal is approved, school staff at an instructor level could be alternately certified and considered teachers within NYCACS and the SUNY system. Ms. Fisher will meet with SUNY on June 6th to discuss if NYCACS will move forward with this process. Ms. Fisher, Ms. Hoch, Mr. O'Neill and Ms. Seeman will be a part of the meeting with SUNY.

c. Efforts to Secure a Per Pupil Allocation Increase

- At 6:12pm Ms. Fisher provided an update on her work with the lobbyist to secure a per pupil increase. The firm is working on scheduling some on-site visits with government officials. Ms. Fisher will have more information after their next check-in.

d. Fundraisers

- At 6:22pm Ms. Fisher provided an overview of the Bar Night event, the Baseball Extravaganza, and Ms. Garrett's upcoming fundraising effort.

7. Closing Items

- **Action:** Mr. Hartman motioned to adjourn the NYCACS Board Meeting. Ms. Garrett seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:25pm.