

NYCAUTISM

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Board Meeting Minutes

August 10th 2020 – 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACs) met on Monday, August 10th, 2020 Via Video Conference

Attending Trustees:

Ashley Garrett
Alvin Shih
Ben Hartman
Carol Santiago
Christine Sandler
Hannah Hoch
Ilene Lainer
Mark Saretsky
Mitchel Baum
Paul O’Neill

Absent Trustees:

Alysia Steinmann
Elaine Florio
Naeema Livingston

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Tiffney Jones, Director of Finance
Jessica Seeman, Head of School East Harlem
Jennifer Jaye, Head of School Bronx
Christina Secharan, Operations Manager

1. Call to order

Action: Ms. Santiago called the NYCACS general meeting to order at 5:04pm.

2. Board Business

a. Minutes from Board Meeting 7-13-2020

- At 5:05pm the minutes of the July 13th, 2020 Board meeting were reviewed.
Action: Ms. Garrett motioned to approve the July 13th, 2020 minutes. Mr. Hartman abstained from the vote as he was not in attendance. Ms. Lainer seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and the minutes were approved by majority vote.

3. COVID19-Related Items

a. SUNY CSI and NY State DOH Re-Opening Plans

- At 5:06pm Ms. Fisher presented the NYCACS re-opening plan submitted to

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SUNY CSI as well as the NY State DOH. **Action:** Ms. Garrett motioned to approve the SUNY CSI and NY State DOH re-opening plans. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and it was unanimously approved.

b. Enrollment Plans

- At 5:09pm Ms. Fisher provided an update on student enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year. NYCACS will be holding off from onboarding any new students until the end of the calendar year due to difficulties onboarding students remotely as well as some ongoing staffing concerns and considerations.

c. Building Re-Opening Planning

- **Parent Decisions**
 - i. At 5:17pm Mr. Fisher reviewed parents' decisions on either opting in or out of remote learning. Just over 50% of parents opted in for remote learning across both schools.

d. Staff and Staff Accommodations

- i. At 5:21pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board of some of the staff's concerns and the number and types of work accommodations being granted by NYCACS.

e. Continued Building Re-Opening Planning

- **PPE and Facilities Purchases**
 - i. At 5:30pm Ms. Secharan reviewed PPE, cleaning supplies, technology and facilities vendor expenses for both schools.
- **Unbudgeted grant support**
 - i. Ms. Jones briefly reviewed potential grant support for COVID-related expenses.
- **Building Council Meeting**
 - At 5:44pm Ms. Seeman provided an overview of the weekly East Harlem Building Council meetings which consists of leaders of the other programs sharing the campus as well as custodial staff. Items discussed at the meetings included shared spaces, entry/exit ways for students and staff, and emergency shut down plans. Ms. Jaye shared similar information from the Bronx Building Council meetings which have also focused on the recent district school merger as well as the addition of a D75 program.

f. Continued Staff and Staff Accommodations

- **Transportation Stipend**
 - i. At 5:48pm Ms. Fisher proposed that staff receive a transportation stipend once the building re-opens. Staff returning to the school building will receive \$10.00 per day to assist with travel until the end of the 2020 calendar year. **Action:** Ms. Sandler motioned to approve the travel

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stipend of \$10.00 per day for each staff member working in person in the school buildings until the end of 2020 calendar year. Ms. Lainer seconded the motion in which the Board voted, and it was unanimously approved.

g Plan B

- **Case for Building Access & Home Support**

- i. At 6:04pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board of the lack of building access at the East Harlem location. She proposed some future options if needed to ensure that all students receive the appropriate programing needed either in person or remotely.

4. Executive Session

- a Action:** Ms. Lainer motioned to move the meeting into an Executive Session. Mr. Saretsky seconded the motion and the meeting entered into an Executive Session.

5. Closing Items

- a Adjourn Meeting**

- Ms. Santiago motioned to adjourn the August 10th Board meeting, in which the Board voted and the August Board meeting was adjourned.