

Board Meeting Minutes

June 13th, 2022 – 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACS) met on Monday, June 13th, 2022 at 433 E. 100th St., New York, NY 10029

Attending Trustees:

Alysia Steinmann
Alvin Shih
Ashley Garrett
Ben Hartman
Carol Santiago
Christine Sandler
Ilene Lainer
Mark Saretsky
Mitchel Baum
Paul O'Neill

Absent Trustees:

Elaine Florio
Hannah Hoch
Naeema Livingston

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Tiffney Jones, Director of Finance
Christina Secharan, Operations & Technology Manager

1. Call to order

Action: Ms. Santiago called the NYCACS general meeting to order at 5:03pm.

2. Board Business

a. Minutes from Board Meeting 05-16-2022

- At 5:04pm the minutes from the May 16th, 2022 Board meeting were reviewed.
Action: Ms. Garrett motioned to approve the May 16th, 2022 minutes. Mr. Saretsky seconded the motion (Ms. Lainer and Mr. Hartmen abstained as they were not in attendance at the May meeting), in which the Board voted and the minutes were approved by majority vote.

3. School Updates

a. Moira Cray's Departure

- At 5:05pm Ms. Fisher presented a yearly community outreach prize in honor of Ms. Cray's service and retirement after 16 years with the organization.

b. HOS Recruitment Progress

- At 5:18pm Ms. Fisher provided an update on Bronx Head of School recruitment. A candidate has moved to the next round and will be meeting with several Board members tomorrow.

c. Bonus Pool and other Recruitment/Retention tools

- At 5:31pm Ms. Fisher updated the Board on hiring needs for the upcoming school year and the recruitment and retention challenges being faced. As a result, NYCACS will be offering a retention bonus (separate from the typical performance-based bonus) as an incentive to staff. **Action:** Mr. Hartman motioned to raise the bonus pool by 200K. Ms. Garrett seconded the motion in which the Board voted and it was unanimously approved.

d. Board of Regents Vote and SUNY CSI Response

- At 5:40pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that the Board of Regents sent our East Harlem charter back to SUNY for another vote given their concerns with the renewal timeline being adjusted to line up renewals across both schools moving forward. SUNY CSI Trustees will formally vote to re-approve the NYCACS EH renewal application at their next meeting.

4. Finance Update

a. Review of YTD April 2022 Financials

- At 5:45pm Ms. Jones reviewed the year-to-date financials as of April, 2022. Both schools are doing better than budgeted due to personnel savings and grants received.

b. Updated Rates on Investment Account

- At 5:48pm Ms. Jones provided an update on NYCACS' investment accounts and the increased interest rates. Ms. Jones will continue to update the Finance Committee and the Board if they continue to rise to make determinations about potential adjustments.

c. FY22 - FY23 Insurance Comparison

- At 5:49pm Ms. Jones informed the Board that the increase in insurance premiums is lower than budgeted this year. The Board discussed whether or not NYCACS should increase their cybersecurity insurance coverage from 1M to 2M. It was decided that the 1M amount is sufficient for now. Mr. Hartman and Mr. Shih will meet with the schools' IT providers (MSP) to discuss the overall cybersecurity plan.

5. Governance Committee

a. Board Retreat

- At 5:53pm Ms. Fisher informed the Board that the August Board meeting will be moved to August 29th to align with the Board Retreat.

6. Executive Session

a. Executive Director Performance and Contract Discussion

- **Action:** At 5:59pm Ms. Sandler motioned to move the meeting into Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's Performance and Contract Discussion. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion in which the Board voted and moving the meeting to Executive Session was unanimously approved.
- **Action:** At 6:52pm Ms. Garrett motioned to move the meeting out of Executive session. Mr. Hartman seconded the motion in which the Board voted and moving the meeting out of Executive Session was unanimously approved.

7. Closing Items

a. Adjourn Meeting

- At 6:53pm Ms. Lainer motioned to adjourn the June 13th, 2022 Board meeting. Ms. Sandler seconded the motion in which the Board voted and adjourning the meeting was unanimously approved.

NYCACS Board Secretary
Ashley Garrett