

Board Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2023 – 5:00PM

The Board of Trustees of NYC Autism Charter Schools (NYCACs) met on Monday, November 20, 2023, at NYCACS East Harlem: 433 East 100th St., 2nd floor New York, NY 10029.

Attending Trustees:

Carol Santiago-DeJesus
Christine Sandler
Ben Hartman
Mark Saretsky
Paul O’Neill
Alvin Shih
Ashley Garrett
Mitch Baum
Elaine Florio

Absent Trustees:

Hannah Hoch
Ilene Lainer
Alysia Steinmann
Naeema Livingston

Attendees at the Invitation of the Board:

Julie Fisher, Executive Director
Tiffney Jones, Director of Finance
Ashley Johnson, Administrative Director

1. Call to order

- a. **Action:** The NYCACS general meeting was called to order at 5:03

2. Board Business

a. Minutes from Board Meeting 11-20-2023

- At 5:05PM, the minutes from the Monday, November 20, 2023 Board meeting were reviewed. Mitch Baum’s name was added under Absent Trustees.
- **Action:** At 5:05PM, Mr. Hartman made a motion to approve the minutes with the addition mentioned above. Ms. Florio seconded the motion. At 5:06 the November 20, 2023 minutes were approved by majority vote. Ms. Santiago and Mr. Baum abstained as they were not in attendance at the previous meeting.

3. School/Operations Update

- a. **General Report**

- At 5:07PM, Ms. Fisher gave a brief overview of general school operations and trends, including the following:
 - The recent piano recitals at both East Harlem and Bronx schools were magical! Many thanks to Ms. Garrett for ensuring there are incredible photos of the events. Check our social media to get a glimpse!
 - Total raised from Giving Tuesday and since: \$86,500. Donation page is still open for additional contributions.
 - Save the dates: February 10 - Associate Board Fitness Fundraiser; April 11 – Photography Pop-Up Gallery Benefit.
 - Ella Rivers (virtual Board Assistant) will be leaving us as of end of December. Jasalyn Ortiz (Operations and HR Manager) will be managing the upcoming influx of applications and preparing for our May lotteries.

b. Impact Catalyst

- At 5:15PM, Ms. Fisher reviewed the work of Impact Catalyst, the Trustee Task Force, and the leadership team on the Re-Imagining Leadership project. The internal team is currently working on assigning tasks to all the new and reconfigured positions that emerged from Impact Catalyst’s work. Stephen Pratt (Impact Catalyst Executive Director) will present their findings and recommendations to all Trustees at the January Board meeting. After a concern raised by Mr. Shih, Ms. Sandler stressed that the possible paths discussed are designed to ensure that position workloads are manageable and to take into account the varied experience levels of those assuming those roles over time.

c. Ongoing PTO Considerations

- At 5:19PM, Ms. Fisher discussed ongoing PTO concerns across staff – specifically excessive call outs. She will be looking to adjust certain aspects of the program to better weather the impact since this issue does not seem to be resolving despite efforts to date.

d. Compensation Survey

- At 5:25PM, Ms. Fisher updated the Board on the newly released NYC Charter School Center Staff Compensation Survey. Ms. Fisher and Ms. Jones will be reviewing it more carefully and sharing relevant findings with the Compensation Task Force after the New Year.

4. Finance Committee

a. Review of YTD October 2023 Financials

- At 5:30PM, Ms. Jones reviewed the October 2023 YTD financials. Year to date net for East Harlem is approximately \$94k and approximately \$-8k for the Bronx. Combined net income compared to the proposed budget at this point in the year is \$144k.

6. Closing Items

- a. Action:** At 5:35PM, Ms. Garrett made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Baum seconded the motion at which point the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.