



South Bronx Charter School for International Cultures and the Arts

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Meeting of the Board of Trustees Thursday, August 24, 2017

Board Meeting Minutes

Start Time: 5:35PM

Board Members in Attendance:

Priscilla Ocasio (Board Chairperson)
Donald Mattson (serving as Recording Secretary)
John Potapchuk
Elvis Torres
Elvira Barone

Absent Board Members:

Carmen Santos

Non-Board Members:

Evelyn Hey, Principal
Delia Gonzalez
Paul Augello, BoostEd
Evelyn Ramirez

Minutes:

I. Welcome: Priscilla Ocasio welcomed the board members and attendees.

- The minutes of the July 20, 2017 Board meeting were approved. Motion made by **Elvis Torres**, seconded by **John Potapchuk**. Unanimous.

II. Principals Report-Evelyn Hey (report attached)

- Ms. Hey stated that the projected enrollment figure for September 2017 is 463.
- There was discussion concerning the expansion of the school subject to the approval of the expansion to include grades 6-8. Ideas included the addition of two floors to the present building (not feasible) and the availability of new school space offsite.
- The preliminary 2017 NYC Exam Scores in ELA and Mathematics were reviewed. ELA scores went up in grades 3 and 5, but went down in grade 4. Mathematics scores went up in grade 3, stayed the same in grade 5 and went down in grade 4. Scores in both ELA and Mathematics were significantly higher than those for District 7X. (Statistical Report attached). The exams in 2018 will be given over two days rather than three.
- Five new-experienced teachers have been hired. Two teacher vacancies remain. Teacher certification processes will be reviewed.

- There was discussion concerning teacher retention. Teachers often leave the school for the DOE or other sites after receiving certification. Different ideas were discussed concerning teacher retention, possible bonuses, longevity, increased contributions to 401K plans, etc. A plan will be developed over the next months. Monies have been allocated.
- The Empire State Grant was not approved. Charter schools were not eligible for the grant.
- **Ms. Hey** discussed the need for additional bookcases for the library and for stage curtains for the auditorium. The total cost will be approximately \$35,000.00. If external funding does not become available, the school will cover the cost. **John Potapchuk** moved and **Elvis Torres** seconded that the school cover the cost, if needed. (Unanimous).
- **Ms. Hey, Donald Mattson and Elvira Barone** will attend the Singapore Math Presentation at the Cambria Hotel in White Plains on October 20th.
- The Annual Report has been submitted and the academic section will be submitted on November 1st.

III. Operations Report (Evelyn Ramirez) (report attached)

- The Bill payment list (July 20th-August 24th) was distributed and reviewed. Gregory Robinson was the Empire grant-writing consultant and North Atlantic Co. is the phone system.
- Evelyn will work on teacher certifications (as needed). Future HR reports will include a column including years of experience.

IV. BoostEd's Financial Report (Paul Augello) (report attached)

- There will be an audit of the fiscal year 2017 financial statements, which will begin in September.
- The Board reviewed an analysis, which indicated that the School met all financial covenants as of and for the year ended June 30, 2017.
- We currently have, cash on hand, to cover over 300 days of cash operating expenses.

V. Old Business:

- Medical benefits are being reviewed. An estimate from Tri-Net has not yet been received.
- **Vera Barone** moved and **Donald Mattson** seconded that medical benefits be extended though August for teachers. (Unanimous)

At 7:29PM, **Priscilla Ocasio** moved and **Elvis Torres** seconded that the board go into executive session. (Unanimous)

- **Action Taken:** Approval of portion of bonus. (Financial viability met.)
- **Action Taken:** **Ms. Hey** and **Priscilla Ocasio** will attend the SOMOS Conference in Puerto Rico from November 8th to 12th.

At 8:05PM, **Donald Mattson** moved and **Elvis Torres** seconded that the executive session end.

At 8:06PM, **Vera Barone** moved and **Donald Mattson** seconded that the board meeting conclude.

Respectfully submitted:

Donald P. Mattson --Recording Secretary (serving as)

