



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

November 12, 2019

Board Members Present: Danal Abrams, Laura Blankfein, Adam Falkner, Laurence Heilbronn, Randall Iserman, Michele Murphy

Absent: Matthias Ederer

Board joined by Sara Corona, Elisa Murphy, teacher Christian Morehouse, and PA representative Ellie.....

The Meeting was brought to order by Chair, Danal Abrams, at 6:10 and a quorum was found present.

- Trustee Falkner moved for approval of minutes from July 2019 meeting; seconded by trustee Heilbron. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Chair Abrams presented the (attached) recitals and resolutions to the full board (1) to raise the fixed number of board members from 7 to 8 and (2) to elect Max Osse for a seat on the board. Seconded by trustee Murphy and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- Chair Abrams gave a brief overview of current financials. School continues to remain in the overall budget as established earlier in the year. Finance committee is to look at a revised budget in the next month based on FTE of 276 rather than 278.
- Proposals under review for consultation on preparing and writing the renewal application. Presentation of alternatives and final selection to be made at December general meeting.
- School Leadership Team Report
- Discussion about possibility of using shared DOE elevators is going forward with other schools in the building.
 - Enrollment steady at about 276
 - Gleaning issues that may affect future enrollment from departing families' reasons. These include length of school day; late start; competition from other schools recruitment; shift to homeschool due to immunization or student anxiety.
 - Continue to hold open houses and information sessions
 - Two students returned to CSA from transfers
 - Already hosting school tours for next year.
 - Attendance
 - Committee on Chronic Absence tracking students with excessive absences
 - Encouraging positive rewards for perfect attendance – dress-down days, awards, mention at assemblies
 - Academic/Instructional shifts
 - Math Teacher/School Culture employee quit abruptly – likely sub to be retired teacher from Newark school during transition to new full-time teacher
 - Head-of-school holding individual meetings with all teachers to understand needs and concerns better as step to improve staff retention



- Staff has daily “huddle” to start the day along with daily calendar of events
- Arts integration project includes Theater for a New Audience partnership – presenting “Twelfth Night” along with Manhattan Youth (after school program)
- Member Murphy mentioned strength of science teaching from her school tour
- Strong science program in part due to partnership with Teachers’ College
- School Culture/Discipline
 - Initiating a Dean’s List
 - Tracking infractions and interventions
 - More careful definition of “defiance” and new interventions led to decrease in reports of this behavior
 - Ten students previously on list of most infractions have moved off it
 - New emphasis on early intervention – lunch sessions with dean, mentoring, parents “shadowing” students
 - School Leadership made presentation at most recent Family Association meeting to hear from parents/guardians and to dispel rumors about overly strict rules or inconsistent enforcement of school norms. Parent Ellie ... commented that it was a good start and that the manner or approach to how discipline is maintained is as important as the norms themselves
- Proposed community-based fundraiser – concert by Dr K – to be more fully developed for final consideration.
- Election of Officers postponed to December general meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 by unanimous voice vote.