



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
November 7, 2018

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

Board Members Present: Danal Abrams, Laura Blankfein, Jose De Jesus, Ben Gliklich, Laurence Heilbronn, Randall Iserman

Absent: Mathias Ederer, Adam Falkner

- Chair requested approval of October meeting minutes with corrections. Minutes so approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Member Jose DeJesus announced his resignation from the board in July. Steps for nominating committee and search protocol discussed and proposed for upcoming meeting.
- Susie Miller-Carello, Director of SUNY Charter School Institute, will attend December board meeting to discuss school's trajectory and approach to the renewal application.
- Principal's Report
 - 2018 exam score average increased 13 points in ELA and 10 points in math; CSA is even with the citywide average, despite a higher-needs population
 - Further growth expected through several initiatives ; in ELA including focus on test sophistication, stamina, extensive guided reading, afterschool tutoring, phonics as needed; in Math higher accountability, more frequent assessment, group work
 - Some students taking living environment with plan to take first regents' exam in June
- Questions from board
 - How many 8th grade students remain at level 1 on state exams?
 - Are students becoming more engaged due to instructional shifts? More motivated?
 - Given the large number of students with IEPs, are SpEd students progressing? Principal convinced that IEP students are making the greatest gains.
 - Are we providing sufficient challenge for the most advanced students? Principal reports there are groups for those students. W works with them.
 - Though it is early in the school year, are instructional shifts making a difference? Is it going well?



- Principal responds
 - Teachers are fully invested in mastery and efforts-based grading, including founding teachers
 - Founding families are complaining about instructional shifts and struggling with HS admissions process due to their own lax attitudes to attendance, tardiness, etc in previous years
- Select students are preparing to sit for the Living Environment Regents
- Enrollment is down slightly due to a few additional transfers – result of move and administrative attention on other issues
- More focused on student recruitment, coupled with permanent location should correct problems
- Principal sees improved staff attitude but advised board of discipline and probable dismissal of teacher who did not follow protocol on field trip resulting in student injury.
- One additional long-term suspension for student with IEP will trigger MDR. School and family are awaiting possible placement in private setting.

Meeting adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 7:20