



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
February 1, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Danal Abrams at 6:15 and a quorum was found present.

Board Members Present

Danal Abrams, Laura Blankfein, Jim Chu, Mathias Ederer, Adam Falkner, Jose De Jesus, Ben Gliklich, Laurence Heilbronn, Randall Iserman

Also present

Sara Corona, Jamie Davidson, Geoffrey Kiorpes

- Chair opened meeting
- Request for approval of December meeting minutes
 - Minutes approved
- Chair reported on current status at possible facility in lower Manhattan.
 - Closer to closing. The space is good for school; will require modest renovations.
 - Concern regarding sufficient capital for initial expenditures. Finance committee in discussions with at least one potential investor for bridge loan.
 - Board expressed concern about latest reasonable date to notify DOE if another temporary co-location is needed.
- Dean reported on recent attendance and discipline statistics
 - More in-depth report
 - Threshold for parent involvement reduced to 5 has improved attendance with most students.
 - Three students long-term or chronic absences – one under CPS investigation, two in likely referral to special ed services, including possible therapeutic setting.
 - Threshold for parent meeting in school – 10. Dean trying some options for families that keep students out due to weather or family vacations.
 - Increasing emphasis on effect of absenteeism on academics, art performance. May add attendance to list of promotion criteria.
 - Suspension data somewhat skewed by one or two students (SpEd). Restorative practices have improved “re-entry” of students into classes.
- Principal reported no significant changes in enrollment. School continues to contact waitlisted families. Current recruitment going well.
- Principal advised board that Dir of Curr leaving due to family move to Calif. Search for replacement under consideration.
- Academic team monitoring interim assessment data (ANet). Scores improving this semester.
 - School modified IAs to include writing; lowered overall performance scores, but should be a better indication of preparedness for state exams.



- Changed cohort for math IAs for more accurate estimation of performance. Math department struggling with how to incorporate writing extended responses and stamina for testing.
- Planning 8 sessions of optional test prep with contractor Appleseed (\$8K includes materials). Saturday sessions to prepare 7th grade students for the specialized HS exam. Teachers receive a stipend for Saturday work.
- Teacher recruitment underway. Work plan, timetables and stronger rubric for hiring all contribute to effort to create a larger pool of applicants with deeper expertise and strong work ethic. Board members emphasized that best possible hiring is first priority of school leader.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40