



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
*September 10, 2019*

**Board Members Present:** Danal Abrams, Laura Blankfein, Matthias Ederer, Ben Gliklich, Laurence Heilbronn, Randall Iserman

**Absent:** Adam Falkner

Board joined by Melissa Andrews, Donald Barnes, Sara Corona, Elisa Murphy, Molly Waterman

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

- Trustee Blankfein moved for approval of minutes from July 2019 meeting; seconded by trustee Gliklich. Minutes approved unanimously by voice vote.
- Board accepted resignation of trustee Gliklich.
- Chair Abrams proposed to accept recommendation of committee to nominate Michele Murphy Gastell for vacant seat on the board. Seconded by trustee Blankfein and carried by unanimous voice vote.
- School Leadership Team Report
  - Dean Donald Barnes described new culture and discipline initiative
    - Team is building a more robust data infrastructure to track management of student behavior – pilot of students with most previous infractions, later to include all
    - Setting goals – 95% attendance; committee to manage consequences and data
    - Clarifying difference between discipline and punishment: discipline leads to learning, punishment is consequence for infraction
  - Melissa Andrews described reorganization of school space; upgraded systems
    - Moved main office to room opposite student elevator
    - Moved Art Studio to main office; created exercise area to eliminate need to take students outside for PE
    - Consolidated 8<sup>th</sup> grade into one area
    - Added security guard to ground floor of lobby area; POS swipe system for entry.
  - Enrollment steady at about 280
    - Molly Waterman managing systems well
    - Continue to hold open houses and information sessions
    - New ELL/MLL teacher (Mandarin speaker) to lead outreach in Chinatown
    - Benefited from families taking students out of schools in D1 and D15
    - Renewed emphasis on recruiting students in high ELL communities
  - Academic/Instructional shifts
    - Six key tactics



1. Reduce in-house truancy – keep kids in class
  2. Strengthen teaching and learning – more accountable, routines, more student talk, scheduled and planned teacher meetings
  3. Align teaching to strands in state exams; add practice for test sophistication
  4. Stronger use of data – as predictor and for instructional planning
  5. Implement consistent humanities curriculum (Wit and Wisdom) with arts component
  6. Emphasis on literacy with new lead teacher coaching other teachers and working with key groups of students.
- August PD focused on classroom routines and disciplinary interventions and how to implement Wit and Wisdom
  - Strong science program in part due to partnership with Teachers' College
  - Piloting stronger arts integration linking studio and performance work to academic themes/subjects
- Meeting taken into executive session at 7:15 to consider matters pertaining to the employment of particular individuals
  - Meeting returned to general session at 7:30
  - Budget for school year 2019-20 presented by finance committee for final consideration of full board
  - Trustee Heilbronn moved for approval; seconded by trustee Ederer; budget adopted unanimously by voice vote.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:40 by unanimous voice vote.