



Danal
Abrams

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

December 7, 2017

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

Board Members Present

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

Via Video

Laura Blankfein

Absent

Mathias Ederer

Also present

Jamie Davidson

- Chair opened meeting
- Principal reminded members of upcoming winter showcase, panel discussion, and year-end fundraising effort
- Request for approval of November meeting minutes with correction to finance year-end report
 - Minutes approved subject to review by unanimous vote
- Chair reported on current status at possible facility in lower Manhattan.
 - Negotiations at an early stage, but Civic Builders is consulting with finance committee on viability and possible renovation timetable.
 - Board expressed concern about competition from other prospective tenants, whether notifying DOE this early would limit future discussion about another DOE location (either temporary or permanent) as a viable option if needed.
- Program committee chair reported on recent meeting.
 - Spring 2017 test scores, usefulness of ANet as interim assessment tool. Cohort is too small (ELA - 14 independent charters out of 35 total; Math – 6 schools due to curriculum)
 - What other tools may be required? Data analysis ongoing. Curriculum and instructional practices under review. New interim assessments to be conducted in December.
 - Strong test result is within core of school mission; Board will continue to monitor school improvement plan.
 - Board to prepare statement of expectations for school staff regarding academic outcomes, prepared to compromise on arts programming as needed.
 - Principal mentioned a lower level of accountability for rigor in arts programming; need to raise expectations in both art and academic instruction.
 - Stronger support for particular teachers as needed – key responsibility of Dean and Instructional Leader. Principal acknowledged weak teacher in 6th grade math has left class behind schedule to cover all units during the year.



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- Improving teacher recruitment and retention through more thorough hiring process, paying close attention to current school work environment, increasing outreach to minority applicants.
 - Committee chair recognized difficulty finding sufficient pool of qualified applicants.
 - Program committee, mainly through member Falkner, will continue to support principal with network, recruitment, strategy.
 - Board offered support to assist with resources as needed for enhanced recruitment plans.
- Principal advised Board of impending dismissal of failing science teacher and steps to support students while searching for long-term and permanent replacements.
- Recent additions to administration – DO and Instr Leader – have had significant positive impact on school functioning.
- Principal reported no significant changes in enrollment. School continues to contact waitlisted families.
- Board recommended earlier and more urgent action on chronically absent students, including enlisting ACS to ensure students' whereabouts. School administration charged with creating policy and procedure.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40