

**Hyde Leadership Charter School  
Trustees Meeting  
August 26, 2013  
Minutes**

Trustees Present:           Herb Fixler  
                                  Wilder Baker  
                                  Deborah Dumont  
                                  Herb Kaplan

Trustees Absent:           Jeanette Melendez  
                                  Dennis Mehiel  
                                  David Steadly

Also present:               Betsy Olney, Head of School  
                                  Mike McNamara, Chief Operating Officer

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:06 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding. Mr. Mehiel participated by phone but did not vote on any matters before the Board of Trustees. Ms. Staci Seeley, Director of Development, also participated by phone.

**1. July 22, 2013 meeting minutes**

A motion was made and the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the July 22, 2013 meeting.

**2. Development Report**

Ms. Seeley reported that a donor list for the 2014 Campaign would be circulated shortly. She asked Trustees to confirm accuracy of the list. Students were writing letters to send to past year donors. A visiting day would be scheduled for October in the High School. She also reported a very successful Goldman Sachs volunteer day in July and on a fun Young Professionals Back to School Event on August 24.

Recruiting for a new Development Director was going slowly. Trustees discussed various organizations and websites where the job opportunity could be placed.

Mr. Kaplan suggested a Hunts Point business community lunch at the High School. He said the local businesspeople often held events during lunch time.

**3. Head of School Report**

Ms. Olney reported that there is a strong cohort of new teachers with more experience than recent classes of new hires. She said there was a very positive, engaged New Employee Retreat in mid August. She spoke of a lot of “newness” at Hyde as the school year was about to start. New curriculum, new teachers, new leadership teams. She outlined three priorities for the school

year: data driven instruction, increased teacher observations and a renewed focus on school culture.

She referenced school performance metrics and stated that K-5 needed the most academic improvement and pointed out that Hyde outperformed its peers in grades 6-12. Ms. Olney reported that Hyde graduates were starting college amid a great deal of excitement and the new position of Manager of Alumni Affairs had been filled. John Gardenhire was busy planning an alumni event for the Winter Break to focus on summer internship planning. The K-12 Data Manager was also off to a good start.

She expressed frustration with the physical environment for K-3 in the first floor space at the Bryant Avenue building.

Mr. Kaplan asked if Hyde graduates might need financial support in the future and whether Hyde's fundraising efforts needed to anticipate this. He referenced several school-affiliated foundations that supported students after high school. Mr. Fixler said the focus needed to be on K-12.

#### **4. Education Committee**

Ms. Dumont reported that she and Ms. Olney met and discussed what was expected from the Education Committee. She noted that the Common Core curriculum standards are multi-layered and complex and the curriculum being implemented this year at Hyde was geared to build learning frameworks as distinct from rote skills.

#### **5. Finance Committee Report**

Mr. McNamara summarized July financial performance and draft financials from the BDO financial audit that took place throughout most of August. He said the audit went well and that he expected a "clean" opinion would result.

Ms. Olney questioned whether Hyde's vacation policy for senior management should change to recognize the inability of most managers to use all their vacation prior to the end of summer while deeply engaged in planning for the coming school year. She suggested paying leadership for unused vacation in recognition of this. Board members asked what other schools did.

#### **6. PR/Marketing Committee**

There was no report from the Committee for this meeting.

#### **7. Nominating Committee**

Two potential new Trustees were discussed. Mr. Fixler hoped they would attend the September meeting.

#### **8. Facilities Committee**

Mr. Baker reported on work done to identify a replacement location for Hyde's K-8 school. He has made contact with the Director of Real Estate for the Catholic Archdiocese of New York and

a developer in the Bronx. Ms. Olney suggested that HPAC could be a valuable resource in evaluating Hyde's facility needs.

Mr. McNamara reported that the HVAC system at Bryant Avenue was functioning poorly because one of the two rooftop generators had failed and needed to be replaced. Initial estimates from DOE was this would be a \$50,000 project and might not be completed until well after the hot late summer weather was over. Mr. Mehiel asked for further details on the type and size unit required and questioned whether it needed to take so long or cost so much.

## **9. Hyde Foundation Report**

Ms. Goubourne reported that the Foundation and Hyde-Bronx were close to finalizing a contract for services.

## **10. Other Business**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara