

**Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
July 28, 2014
277 Park Avenue, New York NY
Minutes**

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler
 Deborah Dumont
 David Steadly
 Dennis Mehiel
 Wilder Baker

Trustees Absent: Jeanette Melendez
 Herb Kaplan
 David Sachs

Also present: Tom Sturtevant, Executive Director
 Michael McNamara, Chief Operating Officer
 Robert Kramer, Board nominee
 Joanne Goubourn, Hyde Foundation
 John Steinberg, Guest

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:03 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

1. June 23, 2014 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the June 23, 2014 meeting.

2. 2014-15 Meeting Schedule

The Board set the schedule for ten Board meetings for FY15.

3. Charter Update

Mr. McNamara updated the Board on the status of Hyde's charter renewal application. He stated that a draft application based on the 2013-14 application guidelines was in process. The team working on the renewal hoped to have the Spring 2014 student test data analyzed and incorporated into a near-final application to present to the Board in September. Student data has not yet been released by SED/DOE. Mr. Fixler informed the Trustees that he had received an introduction to Betsy Rosa, the Bronx Regent for the New York State Education Department. She has agreed to visit our campus in October.

4. Development Discussion

Mr. Mehiel, Chair of the Development Committee, presented a draft Fundraising Plan for FY15. He stated that Trustees Herb Kaplan and David Sachs approved of the plan although they were not in attendance at the July 28 Board meeting. After recapping the historical fundraising performance, he listed Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats to Hyde's fundraising plans. Mr. Kramer asked about the school's plan for the vacant Director of Development position. Mr. Sturtevant replied that the job has been posted and 8-10 resumes had been received that looked promising. He stated that a precursor to filling the position was a clear positioning platform that hit on key points that would be different for individual and Foundation givers.

Mr. Mehiel proceeded to outline in some detail the key tactics for each of the schools five major categories of fundraising. A series of questions were asked and discussions took place about Individual giving, adding additional members to the Board of Trustees, approaching a targeted list of Foundations likely to listen to Hyde's message, the appropriate number and focus for events at the school and Trustee-hosted events, and expectations for Board giving. Mr. Steadly described a potential joint event with the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by the Trustees present to the Board adopting the 2015 Fundraising Plan.

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant reported on the recent Senior Leadership Retreat held at Hyde Woodstock. He stated the themes of the retreat were Leadership, Persistence and Creativity. The retreat also provided time to division teams for school-year planning activities. He informed the Trustees that 10 teaching positions remained unfilled but was confident there would be well-qualified teachers in place for all classes in September. He noted that Hyde staff with several years teaching experience were being aggressively recruited at salaries higher than Hyde's and DOE ranges.

Sturtevant emphasized his commitment to working with leaders in the South Bronx community. He sees Hyde's mission as extending beyond our school buildings and is working with the Hunts Point Alliance for Children and other area leaders to strengthen Hyde's ties to the community.

In a response to a question from Mr. Fixler, Sturtevant identified academic performance in K-8 and Hyde's arts programs as areas needing improvement.

6. Finance Committee

Mr. McNamara presented results for the year ended June 30. He described the challenges Hyde will face in FY16 and beyond with very limited growth in per-pupil reimbursement rates and pressures from rising personnel and other costs. He described several differences among GAAP accounting, cash accounting and the accounting for compliance under Hyde's high school lease agreement. Mr. Kramer asked if there was a clear 'best' measure of financial performance vs. plan and Mr. McNamara and the Trustees engaged in a discussion on the merits of several different presentations of financial results. Mr. Fixler asked that a prior year column be added to the statement of cash balances and Mr. Mehiel asked if a cash flow statement would be helpful.

7. Nominating Committee

Mr. Fixler reported that he knew of a potential new Board member but that a formal nomination would be some time off.

8. Facilities Committee

Mr. Steadly reported that ventilation in the Bryant Avenue building was still a concern and the IT infrastructure project was behind schedule but progressing.

9. Education Committee

No report.

10. Hyde Foundation

Ms. Goubourn thanked Mr. Sturtevant for inviting her and Pat Peterson to the leadership retreat. She said the Foundation was looking to Mr. Sturtevant to identify areas he would like Foundation support for FY15.

11. Public Comments

Mr. Steinberg, who was invited to the meeting by Mr. Kaplan, thanked the Trustees for the opportunity to hear more about the school. He described his background as a lawyer with expertise in real estate, community development, government relations and offered his assistance to the Trustees and school leadership on a volunteer basis.

12. Other Business

None

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara