

**Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
June 22, 2015
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474
Minutes**

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler
Wilder Baker
Herb Kaplan
David Steadly
Oz Hanley
Dennis Mehiel

Trustees Absent: Robert Kramer
Deborah Dumont
Jeanette Melendez

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director
Michael McNamara, Chief Operating Officer
Josh Williams, Development Associate Director
Maureen Singer, Young Professionals Committee
Yvonnia Wise, Middle School FED Director

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:11 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

1. May 18, 2015 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2015 Board meeting.

2. Board of Trustees Organization

The current two-year term for Board Chair Herbert B. Fixler expires June 30, 2015. Mr. Fixler offered to continue as Board Chair for one additional two-year term. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously by the Trustees present to offer Mr. Fixler a two-year term as Board Chair effective July 1, 2015 and expiring June 30, 2017.

Mr. Fixler reminded the Board of the authority granted the Board chair to appoint members to the Executive Committee. He said he would present his selections at the July 2015 Board meeting for Trustee approval, while noting a vote on those selections is not required by the school's by-laws.

3. Nominating Committee

Mr. Baker informed the Trustees that Michael Sload is interested in a Trustee position. Mr. Sload is a senior executive at Colgate Palmolive with an interest in the work we are doing at Hyde. Mr. Fixler and/or Ms. Dumont will meet with him as a next step.

Mr. Fixler re-introduced Maureen Singer to the Trustees—as a current YPC member and potential board Trustee. He asked Trustees to get to know Ms. Singer in advance of the July board meeting so that her name could be placed in nomination for a Trusteeship at that meeting.

4. Development Committee

Mr. Williams reported we have a verbal commitment from the Hecksher Foundation for Children for a \$50,000 grant to support Hyde's 2015 summer programs. Mr. Sturtevant stated that our experience with Foundations this year has a consistent theme—that Hyde's character education focus resonates with funders but Foundations want to see strong academic performance too. Funding decisions are made and lost on the strength of a school's academic results.

Mr. Mehiel introduced the FY16 fundraising plan that has the support of the Development Committee. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to adopt the fundraising goals for FY16.

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant reviewed academic metrics from Hyde's charter renewal and reiterated the school's commitment to academic progress in ELA and Math while continuing its strong High School regents performance, graduation rates and college persistence.

He spoke of disciplinary hearings going on at the school that has led to his decision to expel one student and possibly two to three others. The Trustees expressed support for his decision making while regretting the implications for the affected students. It is important to Hyde's philosophy to work through difficult issues with students and they do not want to lose sight of that.

6. Finance Committee

Mr. McNamara presented the proposed budget for FY16, outlining the challenges of low growth in per pupil reimbursement, the challenges imposed by the reduction in reimburseable enrollment and the financial implications of matching DOE salaries for teachers. He characterized the non-personnel expense budget as being very tight and the overall budget as challenging but achievable. Many questions were asked and answered about specific items in the proposed budget.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to adopt the budget as presented for FY16.

McNamara described a new State Education Department directive that independent auditors confirm that charter schools have adopted an Investment Policy Statement for Operating Reserves. McNamara drafted a policy and reviewed it with the Finance Committee and Mr. Sturtevant prior to presenting it to the Board. The policy outlines in priority order that cash and investment reserves will be used to maintain a reserve equal to 60 days expenses; and reserves for capital expenditures and facilities upkeep.

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to adopt the Operating Reserves Policy.

7. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee

Mr. Fixler asked Trustees to think about a celebration of some kind in FY16 to recognize the school's 10-year anniversary.

8. Human Resources Committee

No report.

9. Facilities Committee

No report.

10. Education Committee

No report.

11. Government Relations

No report.

12. Hyde Foundation

No report.

13. Other Business

None.

14. Public Comments

Ms. Singer thanked the Board for letting her take part in the meeting.

15. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara