

**Hyde-Bronx Trustee Meeting Minutes**  
**Hyde Leadership Charter School**  
**Trustees Meeting**  
**March 21, 2016**  
**830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474**  
**Minutes**

Trustees Present:     Herb Fixler  
                              Herb Kaplan  
                              Deborah Dumont  
                              Maureen Singer  
                              Oz Hanley  
                              Dennis Mehiel  
                              Wilder Baker  
                              David Steadly

Trustees Absent:     Jeanette Melendez

Also present:         Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director  
                              Mike McNamara, Chief Operating Officer  
                              Josh Williams, Director of Development and Communications  
                              Richard Romanoff, Nebraskaland, Chief Executive Officer  
                              Florentina Cruz, Hyde Parent  
                              Larry Cruz, Hyde Sibling  
                              Rumina Munoz, Hyde Parent

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:05 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

**1. February 22, 2016 meeting minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2016 Board meeting.

**2. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sturtevant discussed the progress that has been made in the search for an Elementary School Director for the 2016-2017 schoolyear. Mr. Sturtevant has collaborated with Hyde parents, teachers, staff, and the Board to create a position description and summary of the key characteristics the school is seeking in its new ES Director, and is now working with Hyde's

Director of Recruitment, Senior Leadership Team, and the global search firm Carney, Sandoe, and Associates, in recruiting qualified candidates.

Mr. Sturtevant also indicated that in the process of considering the elementary school senior leadership opportunity, a decision was made to re-configure the Hyde elementary and middle school divisional structures; in 2016-2017 Hyde Elementary School will serve students in kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and Hyde Middle School will serve students in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. This change will balance the weight of each school division, align better with the physical space in the building, ensure that each school director is empowered to be physically present within their school, and create a more logical, welcoming environment for Hyde families.

Mr. Sturtevant welcomed the input of Hyde parents Ms. Florentina Cruz and Ms. Rumina Munoz, who had come to speak to their hopes and ideas for the school, as summarized in the Public Comments portion of the minutes.

Mr. Sturtevant distributed a report from the Hyde High School college office, including updates on Hyde graduates' college matriculation rates and college persistence rates. The report noted that as of March 21, 2016, 95% of Hyde's Class of 2016 has applied to college and 89% of applicants have been accepted into one or more colleges. Mr. Sturtevant mentioned that SAT preparation has become more of a focus for Hyde High School, as this exam is a key pathway for opportunity.

Board Trustee Deborah Dumont inquired if the school has any interest in providing additional practice tests to students throughout the school year. Mr. Sturtevant communicated the school's commitment to its current testing systems, including consistent application of the nationally-normed NWEA assessment, and expressed hesitancy to over-test students throughout the year.

Mr. Sturtevant summarized an elementary school project in which Hyde students collaborated to replicate the Empire State Building in Legos, using this as an example for strong, inquiry-based academic instruction. Mr. Sturtevant also reviewed the recent Hyde High School Senior Retreat, in which a majority of Hyde's Class of 2016 attended an off-site retreat to discuss their personal growth, progress, and visions for themselves.

Mr. Sturtevant communicated that the school had not yet received word regarding its request to the Board of Regents for additional enrollment spaces, but he expected after the March or April Board of Regents meetings. Mr. Sturtevant also expressed that the NYC Department of Education will not be physically visiting the school this year for its annual review, but will be completing a remote review, or "desk audit".

### **3. Development Committee**

Mr. Williams showed YTD February results. He reminded the Board that while foundation and corporate giving has been strong, working to meet fundraising goals across all funding categories is critical, including individual and Board giving. Mr. Williams also indicated that Board fundraising totals would increase markedly in March, due to the recent generosity several board members.

Mr. Williams reported on recent development activity, including a \$5,000 gift from The AthLife Foundation that was recently approved for support of Hyde's student-athletes. He updated the Trustees on other development and communications activity, such as an outstanding grant request to City Council, a letter of inquiry distributed to The Charles Hayden Foundation, upgrades to the website, as well as upcoming fundraising and promotional events.

Mr. William suggested Hyde host a Spring Open House in May and the Board unanimously approved.

Hyde Board Chair Herb Fixler suggested that when a working version of the Hyde website is ready, the Board should be provided a demonstration. Mr. Williams agreed.

### **4. Finance Committee**

Mr. McNamara reported that February's financial results were consistent with the school's performance year-to-date. Mr. McNamara projected that the school would have a favorable budget variance of approximately \$500,000 for the fiscal year.

### **5. Human Resources**

Ms. Dumont reported that she has been in collaboration with Mr. Sturtevant in the search for a new Elementary School Director, including conversations with teachers and staff regarding the needs of the elementary school and distinct characteristics desired of its incoming leader.

### **6. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee**

No report.

### **7. Facilities Committee**

No report.

## **8. Education Committee**

Ms. Dumont reported that she and Mr. Sturtevant recently conducted a school visit with Cynthia McCallister, an early childhood education professor at New York University, in order to review the pedagogical practices of Hyde Elementary School. Ms. McCallister, Ms. Dumont, and Mr. Sturtevant discussed best practices in promoting “Learning Cultures”, a student-centered approach to learning.

## **9. Government Relations**

Mr. Mehiel reported that Hyde High School recently invited a variety of local political leaders to attend its Hunts Point 2030 Community Discussion to be held on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. The event will be an opportunity for Hyde students to discuss with local political and CBO leaders the future of the Hunts Point community. Mr. Mehiel and Mr. Williams are currently reaching out to local political leaders, such as the Office of Borough President Ruben Diaz, to invite them to the event.

## **10. Hyde Foundation**

No report.

## **11. Other Business**

Mr. Hanley reported that he will be attending the Hyde School 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hanley and Mr. Williams are collaborating on information to present to the guests of the boarding school event, as a means to encourage further collaboration and support among the schools.

## **12. Public Comments**

Hyde parents Florentina Cruz and Rumina Munoz were present, as well as Hyde sibling Larry Cruz, who acted as translator. At Mr. Sturtevant’s invitation, Ms. Cruz and Ms. Munoz communicated their hopes for the new Hyde Elementary School Director and ideas for strengthening the school. Ms. Cruz and Ms. Munoz expressed a desire for the school to continue to hire excellent teachers committed to Hyde’s long-term mission, to continue investing in student-family-teacher relationships and communication systems, and to offer additional supports for Hyde families so that they are best able to support students’ academic growth.

Mr. Sturtevant and the Board thanked Ms. Cruz and Ms. Munoz for their thoughtful feedback. Mr. Sturtevant indicated that the Hyde Senior Leadership Team is currently working on these important initiatives, including high-quality teacher recruitment and retention, best practice communication systems, and skill-building Family Education Department events.

### **13. Executive Session**

The Board of Trustees went into Executive Session at 8:20 pm to discuss a personnel matter.

### **14. Return From Executive Session**

The Board of Trustees returned to Open Session at 8:50 pm.

### **15. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Minutes prepared by Joshua Williams.