

Hyde-Bronx Trustee Meeting Minutes
Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
June 27, 2016
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474
Minutes

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

Trustees Absent: Deborah Dumont
 Dennis Mehiel
 Maureen Singer
 Jeanette Melendez
 Richard Romanoff

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director
 Amaris Obregon, Elementary School Director
 Josh Williams, Director of Development and Communications
 Michelle Lopez, Charter School Business Management
 Ruth Jarmul, Guest

The meeting began at 6:05 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

1. May 23, 2016 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2016 Board meeting.

2. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant updated the Board regarding the progress of the school's initiative to modify the timing of the school day in 2016-2017. Mr. Sturtevant reported that the Department of Education approved the change in schedule and the bus logistics have been worked out; in 2016-2017 the K-12 school day will run from 8:00 am – 3:10 pm

Mr. Sturtevant provided updates regarding charter-related activity in the New York state government. Mr. Sturtevant reported that charter schools have a one-time opportunity to change authorizers, and also that recent legislation was passed allowing SUNY-authorized charters to modify operational regulations. The language and implications surrounding this legislation has been vague, and the school will continue to be attentive to new developments.

Mr. Sturtevant summarized the success of the school, as evidenced by Hyde-Bronx's graduation ceremony on June 25, 2016. 94% of the Class of 2016 graduated on time, and their speeches included themes of independence, growth, and social justice. Mr. Sturtevant remarked that Celia Sosa (High School Director) has done an excellent job this year. He also noted that the Class of 2016 had the highest rate of Advanced Regents diplomas of any Hyde-Bronx class to date (17%). Mr. Sturtevant noted that 95% of the graduates have enrolled in college, and that the Alumni Affairs team will provide a more thorough report on alumni progress at the July Board meeting.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that, at the middle school level, 100% of 8th graders took 3 Regents level classes – Algebra, U.S. History, and Living Environment. Approximately 40% of 8th grade students earned college-ready scores on their U.S. History and Living Environment exams, doubling the total number of 8th grader students achieving this. Hyde Middle School continues to push rigor and higher-level skills to prepare students for college and for life.

Mr. Sturtevant introduced Hyde Elementary School Director Amaris Obregon, who will be leading the school in 2016-2017 and recently completed her 5th day as a team member. Mr. Sturtevant then invited Ms. Obregon to share her experiences as an educator, and what attracted her to Hyde-Bronx.

Ms. Obregon gave a brief summary of her work and life experience, including roles as an elementary school teacher, counselor, charter school consultant, school leader, and most recently, Director of Teaching and Learning at an international school in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Ms. Obregon conveyed her excitement to be joining the team, as well as the key opportunities for growth she sees in the school.

Mr. Sturtevant remarked on the status of Hyde's Signature Practices. Mr. Sturtevant reported that this year Hyde-Bronx has continued to authentically employ numerous Signature Practices, including concern meetings, EEMO (effort) rubrics, faculty evaluations, senior evaluations, admissions interviews, and more.

Mr. Sturtevant concluded his report by noting that, as a component of the strategic planning process, he is considering how to best promote a school culture in which students take ownership over Hyde-Bronx's character culture.

3. Finance Committee

Ms. Lopez reported on the status of Hyde-Bronx's year-to-date financial performance and noted that the school currently has a budget surplus for the year-to-date figures through May 2016.

Ms. Lopez pointed out that while the Medical Insurance line item appears at a budget deficit for the month, this is primarily attributable to the timing of premium payments.

Ms. Lopez noted that the school's finances are in good condition as the business team works to close out the year, and that based on her experience working with other charter schools via her organization, Hyde-Bronx has impressive, highly-functioning systems, including appropriate paperwork.

4. Development Committee

Mr. Williams showed YTD May results. He projected that the fundraising totals for the year would exceed the annual fundraising target, based on Board giving commitments. Mr. Williams noted that while May contributions appeared below average, a substantial deposit was made in the 1st week of June, which included the majority of these contributions.

Mr. Williams reported that the school was recently approved of a \$5,000 grant from The New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, as well as a \$5,000 contribution for the New York City Council, both in support of Hyde-Bronx's summer programs. Mr. Williams indicated that he is currently completing the necessary forms and coursework in order to ensure that Hyde-Bronx receives funds from the City Council.

Mr. Williams noted that the school raised \$23,300 from local business in support of the school's graduation program campaign. Mr. Williams indicated that this was a substantial increase from years past, and that in addition to gifts from new companies, many of the companies supporting the school have increased their tiers of giving.

Mr. Williams reported that a revised school website is currently being constructed by Rodriguez Valle Creative, a website design firm. A draft of the website will be available to test in the 1st week of July, and the website will go live by July 31, 2016.

In addition to upcoming communications, Mr. Williams indicated that he plans to submit a variety of grant requests, including proposals to The Hyde and Watson Foundation and The Bronx Rotary Club.

5. Human Resources

No report.

6. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee

No report.

7. Facilities Committee

Mr. Steadly reported that the Class of 2016 signatures plaque would be installed over the summer.

8. Education Committee

No report.

9. Government Relations

Mr. Fixler encouraged the school to invite local political leaders, such as Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., State Senator Reverend Ruben Diaz, Sr., and City Council Member Rafael Salamanca, Jr., to attend the Hyde-Bronx 10th anniversary celebration on Saturday, October 15th.

10. Hyde Foundation

Mr. Fixler reported that Hyde-Bronx and the Hyde Foundation are currently negotiating their partnership agreement.

11. Other Business

Mr. Hanley reported on his visit to the Hyde-Bath 50th Anniversary Celebration. Mr. Hanley indicated that he was able to speak with approximately 45 people about the success of Hyde-Bronx, and that a handful of guests indicated an interest in supporting the school. Mr. Hanley will continue to cultivate these relationships.

12. Public Comments

Ms. Jarmul expressed her appreciation for the school, and encouraged the school to continue its efforts to empower children and families in the South Bronx.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes prepared by Joshua Williams.