

Hyde-Bronx Trustee Meeting Minutes
Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
October 24, 2016
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474
Minutes

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler
David Steadly
Dennis Mehiel
Maureen Singer
Oz Hanley
Jeanette Melendez

Trustees Absent: Richard Romanoff
Deborah Dumont
Herbert Kaplan

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director
Michael McNamara, Chief Operating Officer
Josh Williams, Director of Development and Communications
Matt Zidow, Hyde-Bronx Associate Board
Tony Stoupas, Guest
Carla DeMartini, BDO USA
Don Alcuino, BDO USA
Latoya Green, BDO USA

The meeting began at 6:01 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

1. September 26, 2016 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2016 Board meeting.

2. Nominating Committee

Mr. Fixler introduced Mr. Stoupas to the group. Mr. Stoupas is a Hyde-Woodstock parent with an initial interest in supporting Hyde Leadership Charter School in the Bronx. Mr. Fixler encouraged Board Trustees to get to know Mr. Stoupas as a potential Board candidate.

Mr. Fixler indicated that the Board will be voting on the candidacy of Ms. Ruth Jarmul at the Board meeting in November.

3. Finance Committee

Mr. McNamara introduced Hyde Leadership Charter School's audit partners at BDO USA. Ms. DeMartini, Mr. Alcuino, and Ms. Green provided the Board with a detailed report of the school's financial audit conducted for the 2016 Fiscal Year. Mr. Alcuino noted that BDO's audit team received excellent management cooperation during the course of the audit and that Hyde Leadership Charter Schools exhibited no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses in its business management processes and procedures.

Following the conclusion of their summary report, Mr. Steady made a motion, Mr. Hanley seconded the motion, and all Trustees present voted in favor of approving BDO USA's audited financial statements of Hyde Leadership Charter School for the 2016 Fiscal Year.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant reported that he had recently met with Ms. Dumont and Mr. Fixler to review his goals as Executive Director. Mr. Sturtevant noted that the drafted goals will be presented at the November Board meeting in full, but that he would be happy to provide a summary at the current meeting. Mr. Sturtevant summarized that his coming goals will focus on:

- 1) Student performance as measured by state test results, high school outcomes, and college outcomes;
- 2) High-quality teacher recruitment, development, and retention;
- 3) Fundraising success, and;
- 4) The authentic implementation of Hyde's character development and family engagement program.

Mr. Fixler encouraged Mr. Sturtevant to disseminate his written goals to the Board in advance of the November 2016 meeting.

Mr. Sturtevant noted that New York City Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina would soon be visiting MS 424 with the New York City Police Commissioner as a component of the NYC DOE's Team Up Tuesday initiative.

Mr. Sturtevant also indicated that Hyde High School students would soon be attending a Town Hall meeting with Mayor de Blasio at the Police Athletic League on Thursday,

October 27th. Hyde-Bronx students were invited to attend the meeting by City Council Member Rafael Salamanca, Jr.

5. Development Committee

Mr. Williams reported that the Hyde-Bronx 10th Anniversary Celebration was a success; numerous students, alumni, families, teachers, Trustees, and community partners were in attendance and gave favorable feedback regarding the event. Mr. Williams also noted that in the most recent week, Hyde High School senior Adelis Santos became the first member of the Hyde Class of 2017 to be accepted into college. Ms. Santos was accepted into SUNY-Old Westbury within 2 weeks of applying. Mr. Williams reminded the Board that students like Adelis, and all of the school's 960 students, depend on the school to provide the resources they deserve to succeed, which is the primary goal of the school's fundraising efforts.

Mr. Williams reported that through the first quarter of the fiscal year, the school's fundraising efforts were behind target. Mr. Williams expressed his confidence that despite the slow start, the Board and the school will succeed in meeting their fundraising efforts through collaboration and diligent follow-through.

Mr. Williams provided a summary of recent fundraising and communications activities, including work on the Character Matters newsletter, annual appeal letter drafting, foundation partnership proposals, and Associate Board work. Mr. Williams indicated that proposals recently submitted to the Hyde and Watson Foundation and Bronx Rotary Club would soon be decided upon, and that Hyde-Bronx foundation proposals were also outstanding with the William E. Simon Foundation, CITGO Foundation, and the AthLife Foundation.

Mr. Williams summarized next steps for the Board's annual appeal process. Mr. Williams encouraged Trustees to support the school's mission by making gifts to the school, reviewing and providing feedback on annual appeal distribution lists, writing personalized notes on annual appeal letters, and making follow-up phone calls to encourage new partnerships.

Mr. Steadly encouraged the Board to distribute annual appeal letters as early as possible. Mr. Steadly also recommended that the school continue its practice of thanking donors with student-written notes. Mr. Mehiel indicated that bullet points and stories are an effective way to communicate the school's impact.

6. Human Resources

No report.

7. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee

Mr. Fixler noted that a new Board Chair is needed for the Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee.

8. Facilities Committee

Mr. Steadly indicated that he was beginning conversations with Mr. Hanley and others to determine the value of the school's property at 830 Hunts Point Avenue. Mr. Steadly indicated that the Facilities Committee is exploring the possibility of the school one day owning its high school building, rather than solely renting the space.

9. Education Committee

No report.

10. Government Relations

Mr. Mehiel reminded the Board that Chancellor Farina and the New York City Police Commissioner would be soon be visiting MS 424 and that Hyde-Bronx students would soon be attending a town hall meeting with Mayor de Blasio.

11. Other Business

No report.

12. Public Comments

Mr. Zidow expressed his gratitude for the Board's support, and indicated that the Associate Board would soon be hosting its annual Winter Social fundraising event in January. Mr. Williams noted that the Hyde Associate Board plans to send a representative to each Hyde Board of Trustees meeting to encourage greater collaboration between the two groups.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm.

Minutes prepared by Josh Williams.