

Hyde-Bronx Trustee Meeting Minutes
Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
December 19, 2016
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474
Minutes

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler
 Maureen Singer
 Ruth Jarmul
 Oz Hanley
 Herb Kaplan
 Jeanette Melendez
 Dennis Mehiel

Trustees Absent: Richard Romanoff
 Tony Stoupas
 Deborah Dumont

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director
 Josh Williams, Director of Development and Communications

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

1. November 28, 2016 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the November 28, 2016 Board meeting.

2. Board Retreat

Mr. Fixler reported that the Board's Annual Retreat would be taking place on Saturday, January 28th at a location to be determined. Mr. Fixler noted that the retreat would begin at 8:30 AM and go until approximately 4:30 PM.

3. Facilities Committee

Mr. Fixler summarized the conditions of the Hyde High School lease agreement. As explained by Mr. Fixler, Hyde currently pays approximately \$1.25 million per year to rent

the high school facility, which is owned by Civic Builders. Hyde has an opportunity to reconfigure the terms of the lease in 2018 and is considering options for refinancing and potential ownership. Mr. Fixler reported that the Finance Committee has initiated conversations with Civic Builders and charter school financing experts to explore opportunities that will best serve the school's mission. Mr. Fixler noted that the facilities committee is also dedicated to improving Hyde's K-8 space and is considering options for redesign, renovation, and potential new construction.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant reported that the elementary school's third grade team recently conducted a significant literacy curriculum development project. Using the theme of ecosystems, the third grade teachers discussed opportunities to teach across the curriculum, embed literacy practice throughout the day, and root learning in real-world projects and authentic assessments. Mr. Sturtevant noted that Dan and Pam Bayly, friends of former Trustee Wilder Baker, recently visited the school and have expressed an interest in supporting the elementary school's literacy development and space optimization efforts. As a result, Hyde is considering partnering with education architect Peter Gluck to review and reimagine K-8 learning spaces.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that a group of Hyde Middle School students were recently selected to become NYC Junior Ambassadors, a partnership between Hyde, the NYC Mayor's Office, and the United Nations. As members of this program, Hyde students will study the United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, generate solutions to address those goals, present their findings, and interact with international diplomats. Mr. Sturtevant noted that this is another example of Hyde students engaging in real-world learning.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that Keith Hefner, MacArthur Fellow and journalist, recently visited the school to collaborate with Hyde High School Dean of Students, Rob Maitra, and other teachers on embedding a rigorous, reflective story writing curriculum. Additionally, Mr. Sturtevant noted that Hyde Senior Kudirat Alimi was recently awarded a Posse Scholarship to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. This is Hyde's second Posse Scholar in two years.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that a recent physical altercation at the high school between underclassmen resulted in a school wide discussion about school culture. Mr. Sturtevant noted that in true Hyde fashion, school leaders used the difficult situation as an opportunity to strengthen school culture, promote self-reflection, and empower students as leaders in their community.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that teachers' offer letters will be sent over the holiday break. Mr. Sturtevant reminded the Board that the reason for the earlier offer letters was to promote authentic conversations with staff about their career plans and enable the school to more proactively recruit highly-qualified teachers for the coming school year.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that the school is considering applying to change its charter authorizer. Mr. Sturtevant indicated that he would make a recommendation to the Board regarding his preference at the January retreat.

Mr. Fixler noted that he was happy to learn that Hyde senior, Neishaliz Rios-Lopez, was recently recognized as a New Era Pinstripe Bowl Scholar Athlete.

5. Finance Committee

In Mr. McNamara's absence, Mr. Sturtevant reported on the state of the school's financial position. Mr. Sturtevant noted that the school's financial reports show the school to be in a strong financial position, and will likely close the year with a surplus.

6. Development Committee

Mr. Williams provided a real-time look at the school's fundraising progress to date and compared these figures to the 2015 and 2016 Fiscal Years. Mr. Williams noted that the fundraising to totals have lagged behind projections and the record-setting 2016 Fiscal Year. Despite the slower than expected start, Mr. Williams reported that numerous large gifts had recently been secured thanks to the collective efforts of Board Trustees.

Mr. Williams provided Board Trustees with a complete list of donations received and Last Year But Unfortunately Not This Year (LYBUNT) lists. Mr. Williams encouraged Trustees to take action in the final weeks of the 2016 calendar year to secure gifts from colleagues and friends in support of the school's mission.

7. Human Resources

No report.

8. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee

No report.

9. Education Committee

No report.

10. Government Relations

Mr. Mehiel questioned the potential impact of a new United States Secretary of Education. Mr. Sturtevant indicated that New York State primarily oversees education budgets impacting the school, and that at this point, it is too early to tell what the incoming Presidential administration will have on Hyde-Bronx.

11. Other Business

No report.

12. Public Comments

No report.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Minutes prepared by Josh Williams.