

Hyde-Bronx Trustee Meeting Minutes
Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
April 24, 2017
830 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474
Minutes

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler
Dennis Mehiel
Ruth Jarmul
Herb Kaplan
Oz Hanley
Deborah Dumont
Maureen Singer

Trustees Absent: Richard Romanoff
Tony Stoupas
Jeanette Melendez

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director
Stephen Trowbridge, Chief Operating Officer
Josh Williams, Director of Development and Communications
Valarie Hunsinger, K-8 Librarian

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

1. March 27, 2017 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the March 27, 2017 Board meeting.

2. Nominating Committee

Ms. Dumont indicated that thus far, no Trustees have indicated an interest in pursuing the Board Chair position. Mr. Fixler expressed a willingness to remain in his role as Board Chair in the short-term, although he added that a long-term Board Chair will be needed.

Mr. Hanley noted that two individuals active on the Hyde Alumni Parent Association (HAPA) recently spoke with him about Hyde-Bronx, and that he considered them as potential Board candidates. Mr. Fixler encouraged Trustees to consider friends and

colleagues who may be valuable additions to the Board. Mr. Fixler reminded the Board that Hyde is specifically in need of Trustees who will be able to advance the school's fundraising efforts.

3. High School Building

Mr. Fixler reported that meetings are underway with Kevin Quinn of the Wye River Group regarding strategies and planning for the school's potential acquisition of the high school facility at 830 Hunts Point Avenue. Mr. Fixler noted that Mr. Quinn has prepared a first draft of the RFP for potential funders; the second draft will be reviewed and approved by the Board prior to release. Mr. Fixler reported that Mr. Hanley has agreed to act a pro-bono counsel for the project.

4. Finance Committee

Mr. Trowbridge provided a detailed review of the school's financial position. Mr. Trowbridge noted that the school's March YTD revenue variance was favorable by approximately \$16,000 and March YTD expense variance was favorable by approximately \$49,000. Mr. Trowbridge noted that the approximate \$65,000 favorable net variance to budget represents less than a 1% variance from projections. Mr. Trowbridge also summarized the school's cash balances and projected disbursements, and noted that the school has sufficient operating cash to fund all disbursements.

5. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant introduced Mr. Trowbridge as the school's new Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Sturtevant noted that he and Mr. Trowbridge are currently working together to draft a FY 2018 budget.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that the New York City Department of Education visited Hyde on Thursday, April 20, 2017 for their Annual Comprehensive Review. Mr. Sturtevant commented that the visit went very well, and that the visiting team was one of the best that Hyde has worked with in recent years.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that a team from the State University of New York, an alternative charter school authorizer, visited Hyde on Friday, April 21, 2017 and held meetings with Hyde senior leaders on Monday, April 24, 2017. SUNY is currently considering Hyde's application to become authorized under its purview. Ms. Dumont, Ms. Kaplan, and Mr. Fixler were also present for meetings with the SUNY team. Mr. Sturtevant noted that the

conversations with SUNY were positive, collaborative, and encouraged Hyde to inquire about how to best measure the impact of character education.

Mr. Sturtevant provided an update on hiring, and noted that teacher retention is one of the best recruitment strategies. Mr. Sturtevant reported that Hyde Elementary School is planning on hiring another academic coach in 2017-2018 to support adult learning and instruction.

Mr. Sturtevant noted that Mr. Williams was recently accepted into Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, and that Mr. Williams will be departing the school in August 2017 to pursue this new opportunity. Mr. Sturtevant congratulated Mr. Williams and conveyed his excitement for the school's incoming Director of Development and Communications, Hyde veteran teacher and librarian, Ms. Hunsinger.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that Hyde's directors are conducting meetings with their team to discuss salary and benefits, opportunities for growth, and priorities in the year ahead. Mr. Sturtevant also noted that the Senior Leadership Team is making progress toward the school's certification goal of 15 uncertified teachers or less by June 2018.

Ms. Sturtevant noted that K-12 school continues to cultivate distinct Hyde Signature Practices. Mr. Sturtevant reported that on Friday, April 21, 2017, K-12 faculty gathered for a seminar regarding transitions, challenges, and leveraging character strengths. Mr. Sturtevant commented that the High School Spring Family Day was on Saturday, April 22, 2017 and that the 12th grade Senior Evaluation Process is underway. Mr. Sturtevant noted that the annual Parent Celebration is on Thursday, June 8, 2017 and that the theme will be a black and white masquerade ball.

Mr. Sturtevant noted that Hyde's Department of College Counseling and Post-Secondary Success is working to ensure students' long-term success. Mr. Sturtevant noted that one of the projects this team is working on is ranking colleges based on the success rates of their scholars who share demographic similarities to Hyde students. Mr. Sturtevant noted that the ambitious goal of the Department of College Counseling and Post-Secondary Success is to increase Hyde students' college graduation rates to 75%, more than eight times the national average for low-income students.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that recent legislation passed at the state level will increase charter school funding by approximately \$800 per student, and that a new funding formula has been introduced, which will better enable charter schools to project future revenue.

6. Development Committee

Mr. Williams reported that the school's YTD fundraising outcomes are short of projections, although the school can meet its fundraising goal with an all-hands-on-deck effort in the final months of the year. Mr. Williams encouraged the Board to invite friends and colleagues to the school's Open House event on Thursday, April 27, 2017.

7. Human Resources Committee

Ms. Dumont indicated that the Human Resources Committee will be convening on Tuesday, April 25, 2017.

8. Marketing/PR/Advertising Committee

No report.

9. Facilities Committee

No report.

10. Education Committee

No report.

11. Government Relations Committee

No report.

12. Any other business

Mr. Mehiel expressed gratitude to the group for their support in the wake of the recent, unexpected death of his niece, Corrina Mehiel. Mr. Mehiel expressed an interest in creating a scholarship in Corrina's name, which Mr. Sturtevant indicated the school would be honored to partner on.

13. Public comments

No report.

14. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 PM.

Minutes prepared by Josh Williams.