



THE ROSALYN YALOW CHARTER SCHOOL

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Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 16, 2018, 6:30 p.m.
116 East 169th Street
Bronx, New York 10463

Trustees Present

(Skype – William Jackson, Michael Rosen), Ivan Lee, Benjamin Yalow, Gregoria Feliciano, Miguel Balbuena, Shirley Saunders, Sandra Hayes, John Carr, Letta Belle - Principal, Yvonne Booker-Byers, Alec Diacou – Executive Director, Guests: Tyler T. Hendry and Richard G. Kass (Bond Schoeneck & King). Power Point Presentation – Nicole Temple (Co-Director of STEP, Partnerships and Growth), and Laura Walsh Giesecke (Senior Manager of Technology and Development, STEP Literacy)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Chairman John Carr. A quorum was present.

Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Acceptance of the Minutes of December 19, 2017

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the minutes for the meeting held on December 19, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Executive Session

The teacher's letter of January 11, 2018 announcing their intent to form a union with the United Federation of Teachers was discussed.

Education Committee – Miguel Balbuena

Nicole and Laura gave a very extensive presentation using the University of Chicago Impact (UChicagoImpact) tools. Our children were evaluated from Kindergarten to 3rd grade. We were given student performance by grade, growth by the year, growth by Assessment Cycle and Component Breakdown by grade and years. We will be working on getting our students the necessary books they need to improve and bring up their scores. We will be exploring other avenues and paths to success as quickly as possible in order for the students to improve.

Principal Report

Our absentee numbers are going down. Dean of Students hired. Dean of Instruction selected pending reference check. Mr. Carr recommended the principal compile a classroom book order up to \$50,000.

Finance report (John Carr)

Net income is forecast to be \$832k, \$672K greater than forecast, primarily due to hiring delays resulting in lower payroll and benefits. Year-end cash balances forecast to be \$1.96 million after making required lease deposits.

Executive Director report

Waiting on Walker Memorial to return the 3-year lease extension for 116 E. 169th St. 5-year lease with Mount Saint Michael Academy was approved in Rome; now waiting on NYSED approval.

The January 15 Charter School Center conference on teacher retention reconfirmed that there is an acute teacher shortage. Yalow's hiring process needs to be streamlined. In today's more competitive market, Yalow's hiring process can't take more than 10 days from phone screening a teacher candidate to demo lesson to signed offer letter, or we will lose out to other schools hiring good teacher candidates. We will engage two new recruiters. The goal: hiring 9 teachers for FY18-19 by March 2018.

Following the chess team's 4th place finish (Under-600) in the Greater NY Scholastic Chess Championships on January 7, we are soliciting donations to send 25 members of the chess team the NYS Scholastic Chess Championships in Saratoga, NY, March 9-11, 2018. \$15,000 is needed; \$4,400 raised to date.

Following the progress report on architectural and engineering plans for the second campus at St. Paul's Hall, the following resolution was introduced and unanimously approved.

Resolved, the November 21, 2017 resolution is hereby amended such that the Executive Director of the School is authorized and directed to incur such additional costs as are necessary to have plans prepared for the performance of Landlord's Work pending NYSED approval of the Lease, such costs estimated to be approximately \$20,000.

New Business

Public Comment

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Submitted by
Shirley Saunders, Secretary
Approved by Board of
Trustees on February 20, 2018