

THE ETHICAL COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL – JERSEY CITY
95 BROADWAY, JERSEY CITY, NJ 07306

PUBLIC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 31, 2014

NOTICE OF MONTHLY MEETING:

A monthly public meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Ethical Community Charter School was held on Monday, March 31, 2014 at TECCS-JC, 95 Broadway, Jersey City, NJ 07306. The Board met in open session.

NEW JERSEY OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Pursuant to Section 4 of the Open Public Meetings Act, notice of this meeting was advertised and posted.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Ms. Terry Still, Board Vice Chairperson, at 6:40pm.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS:

Roll call was taken, and the following (voting) Trustees were present:

- Carly Berwick
- Michael Billy
- Guillermo (Will) de Veyga
- Charlene Falls
- William (Craig) Goletz
- Edward Goodall
- Jarl Haugedal
- Sabrina Meah
- Sonya (Terry) Still

Roll call was taken, and the following (voting) Trustees were not present:

- Fred Miller
- Ann Wallace

The following (non-voting) Trustees were present:

- Marta Bergamini, Principal
- Nick Puzo, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
- Afeez Abiodun, Assistant School Business Administrator
- Elisha Tegeder, Faculty Representative
- Jessica Adamo, Board Clerk

The following guests were present:

- Serge Canizares
- Peter Went

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the February 24, 2014 Board Meeting were approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. Billy.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Nay – 0 Abstain – 0 Absent – 2

PRIORITY ITEMS:

Facilities

Mr. Goodall gave an update on the lease negotiations, and also spoke about the lease amendment that has been drafted.

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Ms. Still:

- Resolution to approve the Lease Amendment, pending the requested revisions.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Ms. Berwick:

- Resolution to approve funding of the architect, Emmanuel Naval of Hampton Hill Architecture, in the amount of \$5,000 from the general operating budget, for a total contract amount of \$15,000.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

Fundraising

Mr. Goletz spoke about the items that have recently been discussed among the Fundraising Committee including grant-writing, shared services, and the pending wishlist from the Principal. It was also mentioned that an upcoming, large-scale grant application is in the works for the near future.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT:

Ms. Still requested that Trustees contribute \$40 each toward gifts for Teacher Appreciation Week, which is upcoming.

Also, Ms. Adamo explained the new procedure for a monthly “Board Packet” to be utilized beginning in April 2014. Trustees should prepare monthly reports for their respective committees/ initiatives (as well as clearly list any resolutions to be voted on), and send those reports to the Board Clerk, Ms. Adamo, at least 5 days before each Board Meeting. Ms. Adamo will then compile all reports, along with the meeting agenda and previous month’s meeting minutes, into one complete PDF document (the Board Packet), and will email that document to all Trustees no later

than 3 days before each Board Meeting. Trustees will be responsible for reading the Board Packet before each meeting and coming prepared to vote on all action items. The objective of the Board Packet is to significantly reduce the amount of time spent on discussing routine items and presenting standard reports. In-person Board Meeting time should be dedicated to answering any questions that Trustees may have about items within the Packet, voting on resolutions listed within the Packet, and entering into Executive Session when necessary.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Ms. Bergamini discussed several of the items found in her Principal's Report, which was disseminated to Trustees.

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. de Veyga:

- Resolution to approve the hiring of Mariam Sedrak and Kasminie Sawh as Substitute Teachers.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. de Veyga, and seconded by Mr. Goletz:

- Resolution to approve the 2014-2015 academic year calendar.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. de Veyga:

- Resolution to approve the submission of a waiver request for participation in the Special Education Medicaid Initiative for 2014-2015 due to having fewer than 40 (26) Medicaid-eligible classified students in special education.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

SCHOOL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Puzo provided the most recent Bill List, Bank Reconciliation Statement, and the list of purchase orders, checks, and expenditures. Additional documentation was requested for the snow removal bill, so Mr. Puzo will provide this as soon as possible. Mr. Puzo also presented the preliminary 2014-2015 budget, inclusive of individual budgets for salaries, benefits, facilities, and special services.

Mr. Puzo also reviewed with Trustees the funding comparison chart he assembled, which displays local funding information from the time of TECCS' inception until the 2014-2015 academic year.

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. de Veyga, and seconded by Mr. Billy:

- Resolution to approve the preliminary budget for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. de Veyga:

- Resolution to approve the Bill List.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Technology

Mr. Canizares discussed several of the items found in his Technology Committee Report, which was disseminated to Trustees.

Advocacy/Funding Task Force

Ms. Berwick updated the Board on the recent initiatives of the Task Force, including strategizing on how to approach and remedy the mounting funding issues, assembling information/data which demonstrates the need for increased funding, and keeping abreast of media/happenings related to charter schools within the district. Also discussed was the idea of assembling a “Fact Sheet” to dissolve the misconceptions floating around about charter school funding.

Curriculum

Ms. Berwick presented the final versions of the Attendance Policy and Recess Policy to Trustees for their consideration.

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. Billy:

- Resolution to approve the Attendance Policy.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Mr. Billy:

- Resolution to approve the Recess Policy.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

Recruitment

Mr. de Veyga presented Dr. Peter Went as a Trustee candidate for the Board.

The following resolution was approved unanimously, as moved by Mr. Goodall, and seconded by Ms. Still:

- Resolution to approve Peter Went as a new Trustee on The Ethical Community Charter School Board of Trustees, with a term of 3 years beginning on July 1, 2014.

Voice vote: Aye – 9 Abstain – 0 Nay – 0 Absent – 2

Communications & Marketing

Mr. Haugedal updated Trustees on the effort to bring 1B1, a progressive string ensemble from Norway, to the TECCS community for a fundraising concert. Possible dates and venues for the performance were discussed. Mr. Haugedal also reported on the furniture sale that recently took place.

Personnel

Ms. Still reported that she and Dr. Wallace have completed the Principal's annual evaluation, and that the Principal is currently in the process of completing the annual teacher evaluations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Next Board Meeting

The next Board of Trustees Meeting was scheduled as follows –

Date: Monday, April 28, 2014

Time: Beginning at 6:30pm

Location: TECCS

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.