

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 10th, 2015
WHEDco | 50 East 168th Street, Bronx, NY 10452

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**

- II. Resolution to Approve Minutes from January 29th, 2014 Meeting**

- III. Principal's Updates**
 - A. Faculty Recruitment
 - B. Student Recruitment
 - C. Education Partners Update
 - D. Facilities

- IV. Board Training – Tuesday, March 10th at 4pm**

Jill Shahan, Northeast Charter School Network

- V. Personnel Committee**
 - A. Employee Handbook
 - B. Offer Letters

- VI. Adjournment**

Next Meeting/Board Training: **Tuesday, March 10th, 4pm at WHEDco**

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 10, 2015
WHEDco | 50 East 168th Street, Bronx, NY 10452

Trustees Present: Andy Arons, Valerie Capers, Lori Chemla (via video conference), Felicia Franklin, Davon Russell

Trustees Absent: Nancy Biberman, Andrea Cohen, Kristin Erat, Eric Nadelstern, Harvey Newman

Other Attendees: Katie Aylwin, WHEDco; Ric Campbell, SBECACS; Cat Eugenio, SBECACS; Rebecca Kramnick, WHEDco; Meredith Leverich, WHEDco

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 4:13pm.

Introductions

Davon Russell introduced Katie Aylwin to the Board. She has worked at WHEDco for nearly 10 years and is currently the Senior Director of Education and Youth Development. In this role, she supervises the after school programs WHEDco currently operates in three public schools in the South Bronx, as well as WHEDco's Summer Camp and Teen Program. Ms. Aylwin said that she is enthusiastic about integrating WHEDco's work into the charter school this year.

Meeting Schedule

Mr. Russell reiterated that meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month and thanked the Board for their ongoing Board commitment to the school. He also said that meetings would be later in the evening, beginning this summer, to accommodate parents.

January 29, 2015 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

The Board members present did not satisfy the quorum requirements and, as a result, could not vote to approve the January 29th meeting minutes. It was decided that these minutes would be voted on at the March meeting, along with the February meeting minutes.

Principal's Updates

Faculty Recruitment

Ric Campbell reported that four faculty members had been hired to date and that he has a candidate for the Physical Education, Health and Nutrition Teacher position, Mr. Andre Harris. Mr. Campbell added that he would meet with Valerie Capers to discuss the development of the school's music program in the coming weeks.

Student Recruitment

Mr. Campbell reported that the school has received 100 student applications to date. Felicia Franklin said that she could help with recruitment in Concourse Village, where she lives. Mr. Campbell said that

he would be in touch with Ms. Franklin once the postcards advertising the school were printed, which she could help distribute to families in her neighborhood.

Educational Partnership

Mr. Campbell reported that meetings with NYU's many schools and departments were ongoing. He said that, in addition to the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development, he is meeting with faculty from the Silver School of Social Work in the context of its work with the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools to discuss placing social work interns at the charter school in conjunction with WHEDco's family support team. He is also in conversation with faculty from the NYU Steinhardt School in terms of its arts-based programs that fall within the purview of the Tisch School of the Arts to discuss the inclusion of student teachers or interns for dance, music, theater, and visual arts, as well as the art therapy programs associated with these fields.

Mr. Campbell added that the MOU with Lehman College is awaiting approval by Lehman's general counsel, but that it should be finalized shortly.

Facilities

Mr. Campbell reported that the charter school has inquired about space in the diocese-owned building at Pius V, located at 500 Courtlandt Avenue; however, the availability of the space is still in question. The charter school that is currently housed there is awaiting a decision by the DOE for co-located space. If that school is awarded DOE space, Pius V will likely be available. St. Jerome's is another possible incubation space, but it is also unclear whether or not that space will be made available. Mr. Campbell said that the brokers we have engaged at SCG Retail are working to find out more information from the diocese.

Mr. Campbell added that Boricua College may be an option for incubation space, now that the charter school is guaranteed funding from the DOE for private space. He said that he would ask the school's brokers to follow up with Irving Ramirez at Boricua College to discuss that opportunity.

Andy Arons said that he would reach out to colleagues who work in real estate in case they are privy to information about other available spaces in the area. Mr. Arons also inquired about the old Bronx Courthouse and requested that the brokers pursue that option again. Meredith Leverich said that the Courthouse was going to host a temporary art installation, curated by the nonprofit organization No Longer Empty this spring. Mr. Arons said that the owners of the Courthouse may be interested in crafting a deal with us now that the school has secured additional funding.

Board Training

Mr. Russell said that a Board training would take place during the next scheduled meeting on Tuesday, March 10th at 4pm at WHEDco's offices. He said that the Northeast Charter School Network (NECSN) would conduct the free training, which is expected to last approximately two hours long and cover governance best practices for charter school boards.

Personnel Committee

Mr. Campbell said that he would be reaching out to members of the Personnel Committee shortly, so that the group can discuss contract letters and the employee handbook. He said that this meeting

should take place before the Board meeting on Tuesday, March 10th, so that the Personnel Committee could present to the Board and vote on these items.

School Sports

Ms. Franklin inquired about how sports would be incorporated into the school, since, in her experience as a mother, playing on a team can provide children with social capital and can help engage them in other school activities. Mr. Russell agreed and said that in the same way music and art provide a space for some students to excel, sports can also serve as an outlet for children. He added that giving children many opportunities allows them to find mastery in some area. Mr. Arons added that the long-term facilities should have a comprehensive gym that could facilitate many different activities.

Lottery

Mr. Campbell reported that the date of the lottery has been set for the evening of Tuesday, April 14th, which falls on the date of a Board meeting. He asked that Board members keep this in mind and plan to stay late that evening so that parents can meet them.

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:45pm.