

South Bronx Early College Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, July 31st, 2014
CEI-PEA
28 W 44th St, New York, NY 10036

AGENDA

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Resolution to Approve Minutes from June 24, 2014 Meeting**
- III. **Facilities Update**
 - A. Co-location Process
 - B. Private Space Exploration – SCG Retail
- IV. **Principal's Updates**
 - A. Hiring Process
 - a. Cat Eugenio
 - b. Faculty
 - B. Health Benefits Packages – Austin & Co.
 - C. Update on Educational Partner(s)
- V. **Board Committees**
 - A. Executive Committee – Chaired by Board Chair
 - B. Finance and Operations Committee – Chaired by Board Treasurer
 - C. Education Committee
 - D. Personnel Committee
- VI. **Other Business**
 - A. Board Training – Lawyers Alliance of New York, September 18th
 - B. Board Meetings – Location and Time
- VII. **Next Meeting: August 21st**

South Bronx Early College Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, July 31, 2014
CEI-PEA
28 West 44th Street, New York, NY

Attendees

Board Members Present: Andy Arons, Nancy Biberman, Lori Chemla, Andrea Cohen (via video conference), Harvey Newman, Davon Russell

Other: Ric Campbell, South Bronx Early College Academy Charter School; Cat Eugenio, South Bronx Early College Academy Charter School; Meredith Leverich, WHEDco; Frank San Felice, CEI-PEA

Absent Board Members

Valerie Capers, Kristin Erat, Eric Nadelstern, Deborah Taylor

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

Approval of June 24, 2014 Meeting Minutes

The Board passed a resolution to approve the June 24th, 2014 meeting minutes.

Introductions

Ric Campbell introduced Cat Eugenio, the school's new Program Administrator. She has experience managing federal grants and working in a high school in the Bronx. Ms. Eugenio is fluent in Spanish, which will play a tremendous role when doing outreach to parents and the community. She will be working closely with Mr. Campbell throughout the planning year.

Principal's Updates

Hiring

Mr. Campbell reported that a job posting for the founding teachers has been finalized and will be posted to various outlets, including idealist, the NYC Charter Center's website, and higher education institutions' alumni lists. Some teachers have already expressed interest in applying. The anticipated start-date for the founding group will be October 1st, 2014. The teachers will meet part-time in the evening to begin planning the curriculum and school culture.

Educational Partners

Mr. Campbell said that Lehman College has applied for a \$7.5 million grant over 5 years and has included the charter school as a co-applicant. The grant would pay for a stipend for teachers who take on graduate students, as well as provide the graduate students a \$30,000 living stipend each year. Mr. Campbell added that the stipend would make the program more competitive and increase the quality of applicants. Lehman has received the same type of grant in the past and this application will be highly competitive, as well. Andrea Cohen added that a

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partnership with Lehman College is appealing since it would potentially draw graduate students from the Bronx, who might be inclined to continue teaching in the community. Mr. Campbell said that NYU and CSNYC are also possible partners, and that partnering with more than one higher education institution is a possibility.

Employee Health Benefits

Mr. Campbell stated that the school will pay for Ms. Eugenio's Cobra coverage for a few months while he compares other benefits packages. He stated that he did not want to rush into subscribing to a plan that may not make sense in the long-term, once the school has more employees. Mr. Campbell added that the Personnel Committee should meet to discuss the different health coverage proposals submitted, as well as the retirement packages available.

Harvey Newman said that there may have been a change to the regulations surrounding TRS. He said that, in the past, DOE teachers were able to continue to contribute to their TRS accounts while working for a charter school for up to three years without penalty. Mr. Newman questioned whether or not that was still the case. He stated that if it is not, the school will have to revisit this issue, which may require a material change to our charter. Mr. Campbell said that it is important for the school to commit to making the salaries and benefits packages comparable to or more attractive than the DOE packages in order to draw high quality, experienced teachers.

Facilities

Co-Location

Mr. Campbell distributed a document that outlined the co-location application and appeal processes. He said that he and Ms. Eugenio submitted a formal request letter to the Office of the Schools Chancellor. Andy Arons said that, since the DOE has a five-month window to respond, we may need to move on private space options before we find out about the DOE's offer. The Board instructed Mr. Campbell to follow up with the Charter Office at Tweed to learn more about the process and the expected timeline.

Private Space

Mr. Russell reported that the school has engaged SCG Retail to conduct site exploration and to negotiate on our behalf. SCG identified four sites in CSD 7, including the Courthouse and the former YMCA. Mr. Arons requested that the facilities committee visit the possible sites and hold a follow-up meeting with SCG to discuss next steps for pursuing those buildings. He also said that we should have a second conversation with Civic Builders now that sites have been identified.

Ms. Cohen asked whether or not the school was required to pay SCG if it ended up co-locating with a DOE school and no longer required private space. Mr. Russell stated that SCG will work at no cost to the school, since the firm collects fees from the landlord if and when a deal is brokered. Mr. Russell said that he would follow up with our contact person at the firm, Chase Welles, to ensure that the agreement states that the school is not obligated to pay if we no longer require the firm's services.

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Committees

Mr. Russell outlined the four committees: Executive, Personnel, Finance and Fundraising, and Education. Meredith Leverich said that the bylaws indicate that each committee must have at least three Board members, except for the Executive Committee, which requires at least five Board members. She added that non-Board members can also sit on committees. Mr. Russell added that the committee meetings should take place at least once per month, in addition to the Board meeting. Frank San Felice stated that committee meetings are subject to the same requirements as the general Board meetings under the Open Meetings Law.

Meeting Adjourned

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 3:31pm.