

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 12th, 2015
50 East 168th Street, Bronx, NY 10452

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Resolution to Approve Minutes from April 2, 2015**
- III. Resolution to Approve the Hiring of Kelly Powers as Director of Computing and Technology**
- IV. Possible Board Additions**
 - A. Deborah Meier - Senior Scholar, Steinhardt School of Education, NYU
 - B. Serigne Gningue – Chair, Department of Middle and High School Education, Lehman College
 - C. David Kirkland – Executive Director, NYU Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools
- V. Review of Open Meetings Law**
- VI. Principal's Updates**
 - A. Faculty Recruitment
 - B. Student Enrollment
 - C. Education Partners Update
- VII. New Business**
- VIII. Adjournment**

Next Meeting/Board Training: **Tuesday, June 9th, 4:00 pm at WHEDco**

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2015
WHEDco | 50 East 168th Street, Bronx, Ny 10452

Trustees Present: Andy Arons, Nancy Biberman, Valerie Capers, Andrea Cohen, Felicia Franklin, Eric Nadelstern, and Davon Russell

Trustees Absent: Lori Chemla, Kristin Erat, Harvey Newman

Other Attendees: Ric Campbell, SBECACS; Cat Eugenio, SBECACS; Meredith Leverich, WHEDco

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 4:14pm.

Approval of April 2, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The Board unanimously approved the minutes from the April 2, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting.

Hiring of Kelly Powers

Ric Campbell circulated the CV for Ms. Kelly Powers, who is the candidate he has identified for the Director of Computer Science & Technology Initiatives. He explained that her level of experience and salary history requires a higher salary than many of the other faculty members; however, this position will be funded through a grant from CSNYC, and not the per pupil funding that the school will receive from the DOE. Mr. Campbell stated that the CSNYC Board, chaired by Fred Wilson, has approved a \$125,000 grant for the first year of the school's operation, which will cover the cost of Ms. Powers' salary and associated benefits. He added that the position was only funded for one year initially, but that there would be an opportunity to renew the grant in future years. Eric Nadelstern asked whether Ms. Powers would also be responsible for the school's IT needs as they arise. Mr. Campbell said that there will be a separate person on retainer to manage those issues. Nancy Biberman and Andrea Cohen stated that Ms. Powers' resume was very impressive and that she will be a great addition to the school.

The Board unanimously approved the hiring of Kelly Powers for the position of Director of Computer Science & Technology Initiatives.

Board Additions

Mr. Campbell stated that the charter school's two educational partners, New York University and Lehman College, should have a presence on the Board of Trustees. He said that Deborah Meier, who is a Senior Scholar at NYU, and David Kirkland, an English Education Professor at NYU's Steinhardt School of Education, are two potential candidates, as is Serigne Gningue, Chair of the Department of Middle and High School Education at Lehman College. He said that he would bring information on these candidates to the next Board meeting. He also stated that NYSED's process for adding new Trustees has become

more rigorous since the last addition, so it may take more time than in the past. Ms. Cohen added that we should continue to search for a person in the world of Finance who could lend his/her expertise to overseeing the budget. The Board also discussed the possibility of inviting a parent of one of the students to be on the Board.

Board Training

Mr. Russell said that the Board Training would take place in September, when vacation schedules would not be an issue. The training will include discussions using case studies of issues that can arise in charter school settings. He added that he thought that this type of training would be more helpful to the Board at this time, rather than the Governance Webinar offered by the NYC Charter Center's Start Right program, which covers best practices that the Board has already adopted. Meredith Leverich said that she would circulate the Start Right webinar to the Board for anyone who would like to review it in the meantime.

Student Enrollment

Cat Eugenio said that there were currently 109 students enrolled and that she is awaiting commitment letters and proof of residency from some parents. Mr. Campbell added that there would be a waiting list of about 100 students after enrollment was complete. He thanked Ms. Eugenio and Katie McCaskie, the WHEDco Social Worker who will work at the school, for their hard work on reaching out to parents leading up to and following the lottery. He added that home visits will take place throughout the summer so that the school faculty has a strong grasp of the student body when school begins in August. Mr. Campbell also stated that school will begin on August 31st. If enrollment drops off at that time, the school administrators will be able to enroll students from the wait list before the DOE school year begins, ensuring that students will not have to switch schools if they move off of the wait list.

Faculty Recruitment

Mr. Campbell reported that seven core faculty members had been hired. Three out of ten core faculty positions were still open, as well as one administrative position. The open positions are English Teacher, SPED Coordinator, Director of Music Programming, and Data Administrator. Mr Campbell reported that he has interviews scheduled for an English Teacher and the Director of Music Programming. Valerie Capers said that she would like to participate in the interviews for the candidates for the Music position.

Mr. Campbell said that he has identified a candidate for the SPED Coordinator position, who might be a part-time employee. If this is the case, the school would be able to afford an additional, less experienced full-time person for a Special Education position, who would be able to learn from the more experienced part-time person.

The Board discussed several philosophies on special education. Ms. Capers described her experience at the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind when she was a child, offering insight into a world very few of the board members fully understand.

Update on Educational Partners

Mr. Campbell said that the MOU with Lehman College has been signed by both parties and that the MOU with NYU is currently under review by both parties' legal teams. He said that he would circulate it to the Board as soon as it has been finalized.

New Business

Andy Arons asked about facilities space for year 2. Mr. Campbell said that the school's brokers at SCG Retail had identified two spaces that might serve as long-term sites. They were working on proposals to submit to the property owners. Mr. Campbell said he would keep the Board apprised of his work with SCG Retail and that a site would have to be selected soon to ensure that any necessary build-out or major construction could occur in time for the school's second year of operation.

Adjournment

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:16pm.