

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**  
423 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10454

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Resolution to Approve Minutes from October 20, 2015**
- III. Executive Director's Updates**
- IV. 2016 Board Schedule**
- V. New Business**
- VI. Public Comment**
- VII. Adjournment**  
Next Meeting: **Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 5:00 pm at SBECA (423 East. 138<sup>th</sup> Street)**



**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 17, 2015**  
**423 East 138<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10454**

**Trustees Present:** Nancy Biberman, Andrea Cohen, Felicia Franklin, Davon Russell

**Trustees Absent:** Valerie Capers, Lori Chemla, Eric Nadelstern

**SBECA Staff Present:** Ric Campbell, Cat Eugenio

**Other:** Serigne Gningue, Lehman College; Meredith Leverich, WHEDco

**Call to Order**

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

**Resolution to Approve Meeting Minutes**

The Board made a motion and unanimously approved the minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting.

**Executive Director's Updates**

Ric Campbell reported that enrollment has remained steady at 115 students and that attendance is 94%. He presented the students' 2015 ELA and Math test scores, as well as the results from a school-wide reading assessment. He said that 59% of students began the school year reading at least two years below grade level, including 18 students reading at a Kindergarten, first grade or second grade level. Strides are already being made by the Literacy Teacher and the 10 NYU graduate students who provide one-on-one tutoring. Mr. Campbell also indicated that there are 32 students with IEPs, who are classified as having learning disabilities requiring services. He added that there is additional funding available to support these services, if the school were to hire an additional person to address this need. Mr. Campbell recommended that the board approve the hiring of an additional full-time Special Education Teacher.

Mr. Campbell reported that the students' ages range from 10 to 13 years old, which poses challenges because of the variety of maturity levels within the group. Behavioral issues have also posed a significant challenge. Mr. Campbell said that a significant amount of his time has been occupied by student interventions, which has made it difficult to dedicate sufficient time to other areas that require his attention, such as teacher development/support and long-term facilities negotiations. There have been breakthroughs with some of the students who have created behavior goals during one-on-one daily meetings with Mr. Campbell; however, he said that it would be invaluable to have another full-time person dedicated to managing these responsibilities to ensure that progress can continue while Mr. Campbell focuses on other urgent needs. Mr. Campbell requested that the Board approve the hiring of a full-time Dean of Students, who would have both classroom and counseling experience and could

work on both short-term solutions as well as long-term plans to help students more effectively manage themselves in the classroom. He added that Digant Bahl, the school's accountant, is in the process of assessing the budget to determine if the school can afford to hire for this position. He said that he expected the answer within a week.

The Board made a motion and unanimously passed a resolution to authorize Mr. Campbell to hire a full-time Special Education teacher, using funds made available by the NYC DOE to provide additional services to students with IEPs. The Board also made a motion and unanimously passed a resolution to authorize Mr. Campbell to hire a full-time Dean of Students, pending the determination by Digant Bahl that the school budget could support the salary and fringe benefits for this position.

### **Facilities Update**

Mr. Campbell reported that the developer of the site at 766 Westchester Avenue notified him that the initial anticipated completion date of July 2016 is no longer feasible and that the school will have to find a temporary space to operate between September and December 2016. The new estimated date of completion is January 2017, at which time the school could begin operating out of that site. Mr. Campbell stated that he and the school's broker, Michael Miller of SCG Retail, would continue to search for other space opportunities, including temporary spaces and permanent spaces that would be available for the next school year. Andrea Cohen asked if the current site could be renewed for the second year of operation; Mr. Campbell said that the current site would not be able to accommodate the school once a new class of students enrolled in the second year. Mr. Russell suggested that Mr. Campbell and Mr. Miller follow up with the leadership at Boricua College. Mr. Russell also said that he would reach out to the Borough President's office to see if he had any insights about available space.

### **New Business**

#### Board Development

Mr. Russell reported that Lori Chemla has recommended Jodi Schneider as a Board candidate. He said that he and Mr. Campbell have met with her, as well, and that she was very enthusiastic to become involved with the school. He added that Ms. Schneider is interested in nurturing and leveraging the students' community service learning projects. She is also passionate about Shakespeare and can offer expertise in that area to the Extended School Day curriculum. He said that Ms. Schneider would be invited to the next Board meeting so that other Trustees could meet her.

#### Board Schedule

Mr. Russell polled the Board about scheduling preferences for monthly Board meetings, now that a new year is beginning. The Board members present indicated that Thursdays would be more convenient for them and that the absent Board members should be polled, as well. Mr. Russell said that the 2016 schedule would be circulated at the December Board meeting, scheduled on Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

The Board made a motion and voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:37pm.