

Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2015
50 East 168th Street, Bronx, NY 10452

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Resolution to Approve Minutes from September 8, 2015**
- III. Andy Arons's Resignation**
- IV. Facilities Discussion**
- V. New Business**
- VI. Board Training**
John Tarvin, Claremont Consulting
- VII. Adjournment**
Next Meeting: **Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 5:00 pm at SBECA (423 East. 138th Street)**



Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, October 20, 2015
50 East 168th Street, Bronx, NY 10452

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

Trustees Absent: Lori Chemla

SBECA Staff Present: Ric Campbell

Other: Serigne Gningue, Lehman College; Meredith Leverich, WHEDco; John Tarvin, Claremont Consulting

Call to Order

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

Resolution to Approve Meeting Minutes

The Board made a motion and unanimously approved the minutes from the September 8th, 2015 Board of Trustees meeting.

Andy Arons's Resignation

Mr. Russell reported that Mr. Arons had contacted him shortly after the September 8th Board meeting to express his frustrations about the process of securing facilities for the future. He said that he wanted to be more involved and have input on lease negotiations, etc., yet felt unable to dedicate the time he wanted to. For example, he felt uncomfortable voting to approve the signing of the lease when he hasn't been close enough to the negotiations due to the limited time he had to give to the project. Mr. Russell said that he had several conversations with Mr. Arons to work through his frustrations. Following these discussions, Mr. Arons decided to resign from the Board, but said that he would be supportive and is still happy to help in other ways.

Introductions

Serigne Gningue introduced himself to the Board as a candidate, pending the submission of all required documents and NYSED approval. Mr. Gningue is an Associate Professor of Mathematics Education and the Chairperson of the Department of Middle School Education at Lehman College.

John Tarvin introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Tarvin is the principal of Claremont Consulting and was referred to SBECA by the NYC Charter Center. He stated that he had previously served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Center for Charter Public School Excellence and held various other leadership positions in the non-profit sector, following his early career in finance.

Facilities Discussion & Approval of Lease

Mr. Campbell circulated an updated budget projection for future years, including facilities costs based on the lease terms that had been negotiated by Mr. Campbell and the school's attorneys on behalf of SBECA, and Radame Perez and his legal counsel on behalf of the property owner, Mastermind LTD. Mr. Campbell stated that the property owner has already begun construction, even though the lease has not yet been signed, to ensure that the ongoing lease negotiations would not prevent project completion within the agreed-upon timeline required for a July 2016 occupancy.

Ms. Cohen inquired about the provisions to protect the school should the work not be completed on time. Mr. Campbell said that the lease terms awarded the school two days' worth of rent credit for every day beyond the agreed-upon date of occupancy, July 1, 2016.

Mr. Campbell said that upon the signing of the lease, the school would be responsible for a payment of \$55,000 for schematics, and a payment of \$50,677 to represent the first of three installments of a security deposit; the other two installments for the security deposit would be paid on the day of occupancy and 60 days following occupancy.

The Board made a motion and unanimously passed a resolution to authorize Ric Campbell to sign the discussed lease for the 766 Westchester Avenue site and to make a payment for \$105,677 to Mastermind, LTD.

Board Training

Mr. Tarvin led a Governance Training session using a powerpoint presentation and case studies that had been distributed to the Board in advance.

Adjournment

The Board made a motion and voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:50.