

SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE CHARTER SCHOOL

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

January 22, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Location: School in the Square

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Michelle DeLong, Peter Gatof (by phone), Scott Gottlieb, Scott Levenson, Aaron Listhaus, Michael Pollack, Walter Rendon (by phone), Joel Talish, and Mindy Tucker (by phone)

Other Attendees: Carrie Amon, Alan Dichter, Jennifer Grazel (by phone), Bob Keogh, Cristina Melendez, Evan Meyers

Materials provided to the Board prior to the meeting: December meeting minutes, December dashboard, Meeting presentation, ED report, finance package.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Mr. Pollack opened the meeting at 5:35.

Finance Committee: Ms. Tucker discussed the finance package, including a cash snapshot. She advised the board that she will present a new financial dashboard next month. The finance team will also do a quarterly re-forecast of the budget next month, based on the year to date actuals.

Principal's Report: Ms. Amon presented the principal's report. Third quarter begins on 1/28. Schedules for students and small groups are being revised for the third quarter based on individual needs. Sixth grade highlights include: the number of students who are on track to exceed F&P reading goals for the year is high. The students just took the MAP math test and will take the MAP ELA test this week. Ms. Amon will review the results with the board next month.

Ms. Amon and Mr. Meyers met with teachers in "think tanks" to get feedback on many aspects of the teaching process. Teachers have a lot of suggestions – some led to scheduling changes. The teachers feel constrained by the space issues in the building.

Many field trips have occurred and are being planned. The 6th grade went ice-skating last week, many students for the first time. They loved it. The 8th grade will be going on a graduation trip to Boston. Students are fundraising for the trip.

A new social worker started this week and is meeting all of the students.

Ed Report: Mr. Meyers presented the ED report:

Recruitment: Because the status of the expansion is unknown and the new facility is still unclear, there is much to determine going forward. Mr. Meyers and Ms. Amon have been to a possible space with an architect to determine feasibility.

Compensation: S2 will implement new guidelines for salaries, which include raises for teachers. Goal setting will be tied to compensation.

Summer program: It is important to keep students' minds busy over the summer to prevent summer slide. We are in negotiations with the Inwood YMCA for space at their day camp in Rockland County. We plan to have our program for 3 weeks at S2 and 2 weeks at the Y (for rising 7th and 8th grade students). Parents will pay a small part but the school will cover approximately \$125,000 of the cost. We hope to have 60 students for 3 weeks and 40 for the additional 2 weeks.

NYU Residency Program: We are looking into partnering with the NYU residency program for graduate students in the teaching program. We would pay each student a stipend and we pay the program a fee. The students work full time in the school and take NYU classes at night. The program will come to the S2 and provide coaching for their students.

Mr. Meyers reminded the board that there will be an open community meeting on 1/29 at the school to discuss the school's proposed expansion with the community.

Governance Report: The governance committee asked the board if it supports a retreat. The board agreed, subject to renaming it an off-site.

Development: Mr. Talish presented the development report. The school has been extremely successful raising money thus far. We don't want to hit donor fatigue. What is the message going forward? Do we stress expansion (if approved) and summer slide? What types of events are most successful and what do we want for the rest of the year? Should we have an end of the year gala?

Board Voting: The board voted on the following items:

- **Approval of the 12--12 Meeting minutes.** Mr. Levinson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December Board meeting, subject to blanks being completed. Mr. Pollack seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully submitted: Michelle DeLong, Secretary