

SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE CHARTER SCHOOL

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

March 26, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Location: School in the Square

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

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

Materials provided to the Board prior to the meeting: February meeting minutes, February dashboard, Meeting presentation, ED report, finance package, student lottery data.

**BUSINESS MEETING:**

Mr. Pollack opened the meeting at 5:37.

**ED Report:** Mr. Meyers introduced the school's first Director of Community Development, Cynthia Carrion. Ms. Carrion will work to make S2 an important institution to Washington heights, our families and our donors. Ms. Carrion has deep roots in the Washington Heights community.

We intend to have more students enter the lottery than in prior years. As of now, 298 students from 42 schools have applied to S2 for a seat next year. We intend to start the year with between 300 and 305 students.

High school admission: Students were accepted to 42 different high schools (of 96 8<sup>th</sup> graders). Only 10 or 15 students will go to round 2. Most are very happy. We had an incredibly successful first year.

The whole school is taking a field trip on May 3. Every student will get to choose from a multitude of trips so each student will go somewhere he or she is particularly interested in.

Staffing: Two teachers will not return. We are looking for a bi-lingual AP and a tech person. We have hired three new teachers with 10+ years of experience each.

Development: We are planning a fundraiser on October 17, 2019.

We continue to look at ways to expand.

**Real Estate:** Mr. Gottlieb informed the board that we have a deal to takeover the 2 – 5<sup>th</sup> floor in the building next door to the school. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade will be housed in that building. There will be space for the community as well. We should have a C of O by November. Mr. Gottlieb also spoke about a new

building being constructed at 2420 Amsterdam Avenue as a possible location for the S2 elementary school. The building will be complete in 2021. It would be a state of the art facility for our students.

**Development:** Mr. Talish reported that we collected \$22,500 in March. Thus far we have raised \$387 K this year. We will have a new video available on May 1.

**Finance Committee:** Ms. Tucker reviewed the financial package. There are no significant changes to report. Friends should have \$2.5 million dollars in reserve at the end of the year.

**Governance:** Mr. Pollack discussed the off-site and what topics to cover. Suggestions include: What is the point of the board? How do we codify what we have learned thus far? We need to determine what expertise from outside the board we would like to bring to the space. The board decided to postpone the offsite until the fall. However, the board discussed having a celebration of our first graduating class in conjunction with the June board meeting on June 25.

**Board Voting:** The board voted on the following items:

- **Approval of the 2-26 Meeting minutes.** Mr. Gottlieb made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the February board meeting. Mr. Rendon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

Respectfully submitted: Michelle DeLong, Secretary