

SCHOOL IN THE SQUARE CHARTER SCHOOL

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

June 25, 2019

MEETING MINUTES

Location: School in the Square

Board Members Present (in alphabetical order): Scott Gottlieb, Aaron Listhaus, Scott Levenson, Michael Pollack, Walter Rendon, Joel Talish,

Other Attendees: Carrie Amon, Evan Meyers, Cynthia Carrion, Bob Keogh

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

BUSINESS MEETING:

Mr. Pollack opened the meeting at 5:45.

ED Report: Mr. Meyers began with a brief reflection on the S2 graduation for its founding class. An emotional and powerful event for students, families, staff, community of supporters and the Board. Mr. Meyers expressed his gratitude to the members of the board for their support. Ms. Amon shared how this graduation was unique as S2 middle school students allowed themselves to be vulnerable and honest in how much they cared for their school and each other. The graduation recap video and professional photography will be available within a week.

Regent Nan Meade visited S2 in early June and was a Keynote speaker at the June 20th graduation.

S2 will be undergoing new construction, as negotiations have ended with the building next door. Construction has been approved by the Church and set to be completed by the end of Summer.

Planning for 2019-20 school year is underway, with six new hires including an AP. Two open positions remain.

Test Scores: NYS released the "cut scores" those students in the bottom 10% statewide. S2 students made significant improvements. While NYS testing results will not be released until September, S2 is hopeful based on these initial findings. It was discussed that the S2 approach of educating the whole child, including small groups, Passions as well as highly skilled teacher practices is demonstrating impact.

Mandated Summer School: For the first time S2 is mandating DOE summer school for those students who have failed two or more core subjects and/or demonstrated excessive absences. A total of 12 students will require DOE summer school. S2 will be strengthening its attendance/lateness policy.

School Vision: Ms. Amon shared the 2019-2020 School Year Goals which included the following:
1) Strengthen grade level teams 2) Build a robust Social Emotional Lens, includes focus on Prime Time curriculum and Responsive Classroom 3) Strengthen our literacy practice with a schoolwide focus on independent reading and 4) Continue to provide opportunities for professional growth and leadership.

Finance: Mr. Meyers reviewed the revised FY20 budget. Noted that S2 will not be leasing another space, but rather undergoing building renovations to accommodate additional capacity.

Reflection Questions: Mr. Pollack asked each board member present to share what each member is most proud of about S2, significance of your involvement and one wish/hope for the school in the future.

Board Voting: The board voted on the following items:

- **Approval of the 5-28-19 Meeting minutes.** Mr. Listhaus made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the May board meeting. Mr. Talish seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- **Approval of Updated Budget.** Mr. Gottlieb made a motion to approve a revision to the 2020 Budget, decrease of \$64K. Mr. Listhaus seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45

Respectfully submitted: Cynthia Carrion, Director of Community Development