

**Hyde Leadership Charter School  
Trustees Meeting  
February 25, 2013  
Minutes**

Trustees Present:           Herb Fixler  
                                  Wilder Baker  
                                  Deborah Dumont  
                                  Herb Kaplan  
                                  Jeanette Melendez  
                                  Dennis Mehiel  
                                  David Steadly

Trustees Absent:           None

Also present:               Betsy Olney, Head of School  
                                  Mike McNamara, Chief Operating Officer  
                                  Joanne Goubourn, Hyde Foundation Executive Director

With a quorum present, the meeting began at 6:01 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

**1. January 28, 2013 meeting minutes**

A motion was made and the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the January 28, 2013 meeting.

**2. Development Committee Report**

In Ms. Seeley's absence, Mr. Kaplan summarized a report of recent development activities. He reported he would be working one day per week in the South Bronx, looking to increase funding from local business leaders. Mr. Fixler raised the idea of a Board scholarship for one or more graduating seniors. After discussion, it was agreed to table this idea with no action taken.

**3. Finance Committee Report**

Mr. McNamara reported on the school's cash position and financial results for the one and seven months ending January 31, 2013. He reported he did not see significant risks to the school's financial performance this fiscal year.

Mr. Mehiel reported the school might have an opportunity to receive the \$198,500 grant that was awarded in April 2010. He is working to see if those funds can be released to Hyde.

At Ms. Olney's request, Mr. McNamara discussed the status of salary projections for FY13-14. He reported that with 3% raises overall, and adherence to a teacher salary matrix first used in

2011, the school would exceed its lease coverage commitment for 2013-14 by approximately \$80,000. Questions were asked and answered about the level of fundraising in the 2013-14 preliminary budget; the anticipated increase to medical costs and other matters. Mr. Mehiel spoke of the advisability of a lower expense budget next year. He also recommended a hard target be established for development.

#### **4. Head of School Report**

Ms. Olney discussed plans for high school graduation and asked Board trustees to identify how many tickets they will require and which guests Hyde should invite. Mr. Fixler asked that a list of major donors be developed. Ms. Olney reported that 79% of seniors had received college acceptances and she expects over 90% to ultimately get acceptances.

Mr. Fixler asked Ms. Olney to report on the disciplinary activities (suspensions and expulsion hearings) occurring at Hyde. Ms. Olney summarized the situations giving rise to current disciplinary activity and stated Hyde policy was being followed in all cases. Mr. Mehiel asked if there might be some liability risk to which Mr. Fixler replied that since school leadership was following written policy, there was no legal exposure.

#### **5. Nominating Committee Report**

Mr. Fixler reported there was one potential candidate for the Board but things were very preliminary with this person.

#### **6. Human Resources Committee**

There was no report from the committee.

#### **7. Facilities Committee**

There was no report from the committee.

#### **8. Education Committee Report**

The Education Committee met February 5 and discussed the metrics that LIIF has asked Hyde to develop. No consensus has emerged yet on those metrics but the Committee is focused on teacher retention and improving academic performance of those students with test results in the lowest 1/3.

#### **9. Safety Discussion**

Mr. Fixler reported he has a proposal from one organization to do a physical and procedural review of Hyde's safety practices and is looking to get one more proposal.

#### **10. Hyde Foundation**

Ms. Gouboum reported the Foundation is supporting the FED directors and is very involved in planning for graduation.

## 11. Other Business

Mr. Mehiel summarized thoughts he presented last month on how best to use Board meeting time. He recommends less time be devoted to reporting on routine school activities in order to focus on key priorities where the Board can have most impact. The Board agreed to spend half its time at the next Board meeting in an unstructured discussion of the Board's role and priorities.

Mr. Baker reported that the email reports titled "Profiles in Character" will be produced and disseminated on a regular basis.

At 8:05 PM, there being no other pressing business, a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara