

**Hyde Leadership Charter School  
Trustees Meeting  
August 24, 2015  
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474  
Minutes**

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

Trustees Absent: Robert Kramer  
Oz Hanley

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director  
Michael McNamara, Chief Operating Officer  
Joanne Goubourn, Hyde Foundation  
Josh Williams, Manager of Development  
Michael Sload, Guest

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:00 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

**1. Nominating Committee**

Michael Sload, who is a potential Trustee candidate, attended the meeting as Mr. Baker's guest. He introduced himself and described his background, particularly his interest in urban education and his curiosity about Hyde's practices.

**2. July 27, 2015 meeting minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the July 27, 2015 Board meeting.

**3. Finance Committee**

Mr. McNamara presented results for July 2015, the first month of the fiscal year. He noted a budget-to-actual timing issue with summer school salaries that will reverse in August. Overall, revenues were ahead of budget due largely to receipt of a \$50,000 grant from the Hecksher Foundation. Expenses were over budget due to the summer school salaries issue and some carryover from FY15 graduation activities. No major problem areas were noted.

McNamara reported that the financial audit was well underway and no financial issues had been identified.

#### **4. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sturtevant reported on State test results and summarized by stating the High School continues to perform very well but that performance was mixed in the Middle and Elementary school divisions.

Mr. Sturtevant presented 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade State testing results in detail, focusing on both the successes and shortfalls vs. City averages and year-over-year within our own school. He drew distinctions between student and teacher performance and also across grades.

Trustees asked questions about the data—where were the surprises in the data (good and bad); what do we have to pay the best teachers; do we have effective strategies for finding and landing the right teachers?

He then turned to HS results and pointed to the strongest graduation rate in our history—94.12% of the 2015 class graduated in 4 years—far exceeding District and City averages.

Sturtevant described his goals for academic performance in FY16: consistent practice of thinking in all forms; authentic assessment projects in the high school; writing across the curriculum in middle school; academic vocabulary and reading in elementary school.

Mr. Fixler asked if Hyde's family-based education helped with academic performance and whether this could be measured. Sturtevant responded it did, using an example of how students must use advanced cognitive skill to demonstrate their mastery of Hyde's words and principles. He credited Hyde's character focus with leading directly to the success we see with our high school students.

#### **5. Development Committee**

Mr. Williams summarized fundraising for July and characterized it as a very strong start to the year. He is particularly optimistic about the Foundation fundraising pipeline.

Mr. Mehiel started a discussion of ideas for the school's 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Mr. Fixler envisions a celebration (as opposed to a primarily fundraising effort) for all the constituencies that have supported Hyde and helped it along the way. Mr. Kaplan voiced a strong vote for having the celebration in Hunts Point. He pointed out the opportunities for publicity will be better in the Bronx than in Manhattan. Mr. Baker asked if a celebrity host, such as Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, would be the right match for this event.

#### **6. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee**

No report.

#### **7. Human Resources Committee**

No report.

**8. Facilities Committee**

No report.

**9. Education Committee**

No report.

**10. Government Relations**

No report.

**11. Hyde Foundation**

Hyde 101—the Hyde Foundation training for new staff that took place August 12-14 went very well. Ms. Goubourn reported that a \$2,000 contribution from students at Hyde Woodstock on its way to Hyde Bronx.

**12. Other Business**

Mr. Steadly reported that he has a client who is connected with ICAP. Mr. Williams updated the Trustees on his contact with leadership at ICAP.

**13. Public Comments**

None.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 pm.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara