

Hyde-Bronx Trustee Meeting Minutes
Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting
April 18, 2016
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474
Minutes

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler
 Herb Kaplan
 Deborah Dumont
 Maureen Singer
 Wilder Baker
 Jeanette Melendez

Trustees Absent: Oz Hanley
 Dennis Mehiel
 David Steadly

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director
 Mike McNamara, Chief Operating Officer
 Josh Williams, Director of Development and Communications
 Joanne Goubourn, Executive Director, Hyde Foundation
 Richard Romanoff, Guest
 Ting Chen, Young Professionals Committee

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:03 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

1. March 21, 2016 meeting minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2016 Board meeting.

2. Finance Committee

Mr. McNamara reported that Hyde's medical renewal from Tri-Net will be a 10.6% increase from the prior year, an increased cost of approximately \$100,000. The school will be increasing both employee and employee premiums by this percentage to account for the change, and the school will be renewing with Tri-Net on July 1st.

Mr. McNamara reported that the school experienced a negative financial variance in the month of March due to building renovations and repairs, costs that will be reimbursed by a grant awarded by the State University of New York.

3. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Sturtevant reported on faculty retention. Mr. Sturtevant noted that teachers will be receiving their offer letters on Friday, April 22nd and indicated that a larger proportion of teachers are expected to return than in prior years. Mr. Kaplan suggested that Mr. Sturtevant meet personally with individual teachers uncertain of their plans to return, as an effort to positively influence their decision.

Mr. Sturtevant reported on the school's search for a new Elementary School Director. Mr. Sturtevant noted that he and the staff advisory committee are excited about the candidates under review, and that 3 finalists are under consideration. Following the school's spring break, candidates will visit the school, interview with staff and undergo performance tasks aligned to the roles and responsibilities of school director. Mr. Sturtevant indicated that the school's goal is to have a hiring decision made by the end of May.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that the grades 3 - 8 state tests are now complete and that Hyde teachers feel positive about students' performance. Mr. Sturtevant noted that 6 students and their families chose to opt-out from taking the tests, a small fraction of Hyde's grades 3-8 population. Mr. Sturtevant also reported that politically, the Department of Education appears to be leaning away from high stakes exams.

Mr. Sturtevant mentioned that the school is evaluating its schedule for next school year, and is considering a revised structure in which the official school day ends at 3:00 pm, providing more time for teachers to plan, for clubs, and for targeted enrichment/intervention.

Mr. Sturtevant noted that Ms. E is currently working with a parent group to identify a brick-and-mortar store for the sale of Hyde-Bronx uniforms.

Mr. Sturtevant reported that discipline challenges have tangentially impacted Hyde students; MS 424 student fights have been on the rise and a shooting in the neighborhood was also recently reported. Mr. Sturtevant expressed that he and other members of Hyde's Senior Leadership Team are in regular communication with school security and MS 424 school leaders in a shared effort to keep students safe.

4. Development Committee

Mr. Williams showed YTD March results. He encouraged the Board to meet their personal commitments to charitable giving, and to inspire their “Last Year But Unfortunately Not This Year” colleagues to make year-end contributions.

Mr. Williams reported that he and Mr. Kaplan are collaborating to solicit contributions from local Hunts Point businesses in support of Hyde-Bronx’s graduation program. As a result, Mr. Williams noted that he expects corporate giving to increase by year-end.

Mr. Williams updated the Trustees on other development and communications activity, such as an outstanding grant request to City Council, a letter of inquiry distributed to The Charles Hayden Foundation, upgrades to the website, as well as upcoming fundraising and promotional events.

Mr. Williams inquired who should be invited to graduation; the Board recommended that all donors and supporters should be provided with an invitation to Hyde-Bronx’s graduation ceremony in June.

5. Human Resources

Ms. Dumont complemented the Executive Director’s report, indicating that finalists for the Elementary School Director search will be interviewed following the school’s spring break.

6. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee

Mr. Williams noted that D’Arrigo Bros. Co. of New York will be visiting Hyde-Bronx on Tuesday, May 17th in an effort to highlight their ongoing support of the school.

7. Facilities Committee

Mr. Sturtevant noted that the 4th floor of 730 Bryant Avenue is being painted over the summer. This project will be completed in an effort to distinguish the new Hyde Middle School, serving students from 4th through 8th grade.

8. Education Committee

No report.

9. Government Relations

Mr. Williams reported that Councilmember Salamanca has been invited to visit Hyde-Bronx with Matthew D'Arrigo on May 17, 2016. Mr. Williams will inquire with Councilmember Salamanca about the status of Hyde-Bronx's \$10,000 discretionary funding request at that time

10. Hyde Foundation

Ms. Goubourn reported that Oz Hanley will be present at the Hyde-Bath 50th anniversary on June 2nd and will present the progress of Hyde-Bronx.

Ms. Goubourn noted that Hyde-Bronx conducted its first Hyde Alumni Parents Association meeting. The group is interested in fundraising for the school and providing their feedback on post-secondary success.

Ms. Goubourn expressed that the Hyde School in New Haven is currently changing its name to Creed Health and Sport Sciences High School.

11. Other Business

No report.

12. Public Comments

Ms. Chen inquired about how Hyde-Bronx selects students for its Saturday Academy. Mr. Sturtevant indicated that Saturday Academy was established as a targeted intervention for children approaching proficiency in math and ELA, and that the program was offered as a voluntary option for children and their families.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Minutes prepared by Joshua Williams.