

Hyde Leadership Charter School
Trustees Meeting: Minutes
March 28, 2022
830 Hunts Point Avenue, Bronx, NY 10474
(meeting held by video conference)

Trustees Present Via Video conference:

Herb Fixler	Susan Engel
Ruth Jarmul	Tony Stoupas
Herb Kaplan	Susan Fine
John Espinosa	Nick Ober
David Schatsky	

Trustees Not Present: Deborah Dumont

Also Present Via Video conference:

Celia Sosa, Executive Director
Stephen Trowbridge, Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Valarie Hunsinger, Director of Development & Marketing
Maya Severns, Incoming Director of Development & Marketing

The meeting began at 6:04 PM and Mr. Fixler presided. A quorum was present.

1. Approve minutes for February 28th, 2022

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the February 28th, 2022 meeting.

2. Executive Director's Report

Ms. Sosa provided rebranding updates. Ms. Sosa noted that SUNY approved the name change this month. Ms. Sosa noted that the Core Values & Signature Practice Committee has administered a survey for community feedback. Ms. Sosa discussed working with West End Strategies consultants to assist with rebranding including communications, frequently asked questions, and timeline development. Ms. Sosa noted the development of a branding style guide. Ms. Sosa discussed the domain name change and website construction. Ms. Sosa highlighted the final logo designs.

Ms. Sosa shared highlights from the SUNY charter renewal visit. Ms. Sosa shared that school culture, ICT in the elementary school, Special Education Case Management in the middle school,

and student-centered classrooms in high school as some of the highlights. Ms. Sosa noted K-12 alignment and integrated co-teaching as areas of growth. Ms. Sosa noted that there would be a public hearing on April 4th at 5:30 pm.

Ms. Sosa provided state retention updates, noting that 73% of offer letters have been returned. She noted that our average retention rate is high at 83%. Ms. Sosa presented anticipated retention by division. Ms. Sosa presented retention committee feedback including discussions around paid family leave, covering mental health costs, and exceeding DOE teacher pay. Ms. Sosa highlighted retention initiatives including Hyde's longevity bonus, faculty fellowship, a minimum wage increase, COVID-19 policies, benefits review (Optum, TIAA, Financial Finesse), and education stipends. Ms. Sosa discussed Relay Graduate School of Education including the Advanced Certification in SPED Program and Masters of Arts in Teaching program.

Ms. Sosa reviewed elementary school updates including new professional development opportunities related to schedule and curriculum changes. Ms. Sosa noted a focus on instructional leader presence and teacher prep time.

Ms. Sosa reviewed upcoming dates including the lottery, ELA state test, and spring break.

Ms. Engel inquired about summer learning opportunities, and Ms. Sosa noted that those programs are currently being developed and reviewed. Ms. Sosa noted challenges to the 730 Bryant Avenue building that will impact summer learning opportunities.

Ms. Jarmul inquired about admissions. Ms. Sosa provided an update on admissions including changes in timeline, process, and marketing.

3. Finance Committee

Mr. Trowbridge provided a year-to-date (YTD) financial review through February and noted that the school's YTD revenue was favorable by \$3,002,000 (which includes \$3,100,000 for recognition of PPP Loan) and that the expenses were unfavorable by approximately \$559,000. Mr. Trowbridge also reported that the YTD net surplus was favorable by \$2,442,000 (excluding PPP Loan we are favorable by \$106,000) and that all SUNY fiscal benchmarks were either good or excellent.

4. Development Committee

Ms. Hunsinger highlighted the recent National Honors Society event. Ms. Hunsinger provided an update on our fundraising efforts, noting that we have raised 65% of our goal to date. Ms. Hunsinger reviewed the next steps for April through June. Ms. Hunsinger highlighted the

upcoming Spring Social and highlighted fundraising objectives and encouraged board members to invite their network. Ms. Hunsinger also requested auction items. Ms. Hunsinger reviewed upcoming activities. Ms. Hunsinger expressed gratitude for her time at Hyde and thanked the board for their support and commitment to our school community. Ms. Hunsinger encouraged everyone to dream big in order to give our students the best opportunities and resources.

5. Marketing Committee

Mr. Jarmul noted that the committee has been focused on rebranding. Ms. Jarmul noted that Mr. Schatsky would join the committee.

6. Facilities Committee

Mr. Stoupas noted that the Facilities Committee would meet this week and that he would report at the next board meeting.

7. Update on Open Meetings Law

Mr. Fixler discussed the NY Open Meeting Law and noted that the existing Executive Order will most likely expire on April 15th, requiring board meetings to revert back to in-person. For Hyde this would mean beginning with the April 25th meeting. Mr. Fixler noted that if board members are unable to attend in person, they may attend virtually and would need to notify Mr. Trowbridge so their location could be included in the board meeting notification.

8. Any other business

The board discussed strategic planning and discussed next steps, noting that Mr. Schatsky would work on a planning process proposal for the Board to review at an upcoming meeting.

9. Public Comments

No comment

10. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by Stephen Trowbridge and Valarie Hunsinger.