



Danal Abrams

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

May 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Danal Abrams at 6:15 and a quorum was found present.

### Board Members Present

Danal Abrams (Chair), Laura Blankfein, Jim Chu, Jose de Jesus, Adam Falkner, Daniel Hew, Randall Iserman

### Joining via Facetime

Ben Gliklich

### Absent

Matthias Ederer

**Also present:** Jamie Davidson, Geoffrey Klorpes

- Chair opened meeting
- Request for approval of April meeting minutes
  - Minutes approved by unanimous vote
- Chair presented proposed new administrative organization chart
  - Addition of new position, Dean of Students, and redefinition of Director of Teaching and Learning. To act as intermediate leadership, supervising teachers and serve as executive committee with head of school. Intended to create capacity for scaling up school to full size while freeing head of school to take more executive role. Teachers' formal evaluations by full exec committee twice annually, regular informal observations by Dir of T&L.
  - Shift Dir Operations to report to Head, no longer reporting to Board
  - To be presented to SUNY as a notation in June annual report
- Updates from the school leadership
  - Principal reports enrollment to be on track, expresses no concern for meeting enrollment targets. Mentions current families calling to welcome new families and value of positive reviews in InsideSchools. Loss of one ELL student highlighted weakness in protocols for communication with non-English speaking families. To be corrected in SY 2017-18
  - Principal reports decline in average attendance stats, citing vacation in April. Contrast with 98% attendance on testing days indicates families setting own priorities for urgency of attendance on some days. School leadership will align calendar more to DOE holidays and create real consequences for excessive absence or tardiness in SY 2017-18
  - Principal reports discipline statistics continue to show mostly low-level, tier 2, infractions
    - One IEP student, suspended several times already, requires near constant



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supervision. Assigned para, \*though skillful, cannot always keep student and others safe. Staff split on whether to devote resources to this student or find an environment with specific resources to support him.

- Board poses questions about alternatives and expresses concern for other students affected.
  - Principal has little to report on Special Education apart from time required to update IEPs and get services to students due to difficulties with DOE CSE
- Principal provided updates on personnel. Many strong teaching candidates for humanities, some for math, but none yet in science. Principal has several strong applicants for operations position.
  - Board posed questions about personnel and search strategies.
- Board discussed plans for May 23<sup>rd</sup> fundraiser. Strong response to invitation.
- Principal reminded Board about other upcoming school events and presentations, including:
  - **Wednesday, May 3rd:** 6PM May Board Meeting - CSA
  - **Tuesday, May 23rd:** 6:30 Cocktail Reception - 15 Central Park West
  - **Wednesday, May 24th / 25th:** 6PM Once on This Island
  - **Thursday, June 1:** Year One SUNY Visit - CSA
  - **Tuesday, June 6:** 6PM Piano Recital - Congregation Beit Simchat Torah (130 W 30th St)
  - **Wednesday, June 7:** 6PM June Board Meeting - CSA
  - **END OF YEAR PARTY:** JUNE, TBD
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30