

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

### **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**

**Board Members present:** Maura Fitzgerald, Jeanette Betancourt, Kalimah Ayele, Melissa Chin, Olubunmi Emigli

**Others present:** Brian Ferguson, Mihwa Park, Douglas Ricketts, Richard Lee, Silvia Diaz-Ferrero, Nancy Vasquez, Kat Casey, Fabio Cuellar, Tanicqua Pryor, Tiffany McAfee

The meeting was under the Open meetings law compliance .

The meeting began with greetings from everyone. Mr. Brian Ferguson then informed everyone that the meeting would be recorded.

#### **CEO Report: Brian Ferguson**

- Discussed updates on school goals and shared the focus of the meeting.
- The data dashboard for all three schools was presented and discussed. Highlighted stable conditions and preparations for state testing.
- Discussed the new law passed by NYC that allows charter schools to receive funding for security guards. The application will be worked on by COO, M. Park and F. Cuellar to meet the deadline in May.

#### **COO Report: Douglas Ricketts**

- Provided an overview of the application process for expanding OWN 2 middle school and the need for a suitable space.
- Shared the three potential locations and its pros and cons. The search for suitable properties will still continue and the team is considering transportation options for students.

#### **Building Leaders Presentation: Tiffany McAfee (OWN 2) and Taniqua Pryor (OWN 3)**

##### **OWN 2**

- Shared updates on OWN 2, focusing on academic goals, including maintaining and growing I-Ready scores and achieving state test projections.
- Highlighted a 13% increase in I-Ready scores from fall to winter in ELA and 12% in Math.
- Discussed strategies for improving student attendance and engaging families. For eg: The use of attendance alpaca mascot to track student attendance
- A talent show will be held with 25 kids participating, showcasing a variety of skills.

##### **OWN 3**

- Shared the three divisional goals: academic excellence, English language growth, and cultivating a positive staff culture.
- Monthly workshops with school counselors are conducted to provide teachers with strategies for restorative practices.
- The school's attendance initiative is based on incentivizing students, families and teachers to ensure high attendance.

- Coffee and conversation sessions are held monthly to update families and provide parent training on supporting their children's education.
- The school has implemented a hot food program (school foods) providing students with more nutritious meal options.

**Finance Report: Maura Fitzgerald**

- Provided a financial update. Made a note that expenses and income are at about 50% of the budgeted amount for the year.
- The 990 for the last fiscal year is being reviewed with no substantive changes in the text or numbers.

**Parent Association: OWN 1 Kat Casey**

- Discussed upcoming auction and shared donation link.

**Parent Association: OWN 3 Nancy & Silvia**

- Discussed the parental concerns about teacher turnover and efforts to improve attendance.
- Currently working with the school to improve attendance for chronically absent students.

**Meeting Adjourned**