



Meeting of the Board of Trustees
January 19th, 2021, 6:00 pm
Meeting Minutes

1. Roll call/sign in

Trustees Sona Karia (Chair), George Sarkissian (Vice Chair), Latoya Massey (Treasurer), Ramon Perdomo (Secretary), Gicele Adon, Jaynemie Angbah, Tavannie Perez, Alex Gallin, and Jared McShall, were present, constituting a quorum. The meeting was conducted via Zoom video-conference, pursuant to the Governor's emergency regulations, at a virtual location open to the public, and designated on the Notice of Meeting.

2. Filing of Notice of Meeting

In accordance with the law, a notice of the meeting was published on the school's website, sent via email to the New York Times and posted publicly on the Innovation High School Website. Physical posting at the school was not possible because the school building had been closed by orders of the Governor and the Mayor.

3. Consent Agenda (5 minutes, Chair)

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes 12/15/2020

A motion was made, seconded and passed to adopt the meeting minutes from the Board Meeting held on December 15th 2020.

4. Accountability Dashboard (30 minutes, SMT/Assoc. Dir. of Strategic Planning)

a. Enrollment Update

Pablo Torres, Director of Student Affairs and FCE, reported that enrollment is currently at 396 students. The school continues to work with Schola to generate referrals for the next school year. The school's goal is to get over 400 students in enrollment. The school has held the first of three open house events that were not highly attended in preparation for next year's enrollment. We are going to focus on strategic planning regarding enrollment across all departments. Sona Karia thinks we should consider rethinking the enrollment goal if the goal becomes unreasonable to achieve.

b. Attendance Update

Emily Bierwerth reports that attendance numbers remain consistent. The focus on semester two is to consolidate efforts of all stakeholders. Make more coordination with other departments in relation to attendance. Strengthen how we track student attendance. Ms. Bierwerth comments that it is difficult to intervene on attendance problems when we don't catch warning signs early..

c. Credit Accumulation Projection

Terence Joseph, Principal, says that the school's goal is 78 – 80% graduation of students earning diplomas by completing all graduation requirements. We have discussed these goals with the school community. Mr. Joseph says that the school hopes that there will be less than 63 students with 60% average or higher attendance that will need credit recovery. Mr. Joseph identified trends in student performance throughout the progress report check points and marking period grades and states that he hopes that adjustments in academic policy will lead to an increase in pass rates for marking period three. Policy adjustments include increasing grade weights for work completed synchronously.

d. School Distance Learning & Reopening Planning Update

Mr. Joseph says that COVID positivity is still high and with the new strains developing, it is not safe to ask students to come back to the building yet. Mr. Joseph says it is best to reexamine this issue after infection rates start to decline. In person learning will not be back in February. George Sarkissian asks how the vaccination effort plays into the reopening plan. Mr. Joseph says management is creating town halls to respond to staff questions regarding vaccinations and the impact of the vaccine upon school reopening.

5. Charter Renewal Update (5 minutes, ED)

Mr. Sarkissian states that Mr. Falla Riff, the E.D will send out an email with an update on charter renewal. Mr. Torres adds that the School Management Team has discussed focusing on reaching out to the SED Board of Regents in regard to the recent changes to the Regents exam.

6. Report from Academic Excellence Committee (15 minutes, AEC Chair)

Gicele Adon, AEC Chair, reports that the AEC held its first meeting today and that the meeting was productive but the conversation regarding academic data remains unfinished.

7. Public Speaking (5 minutes)

Jamila Abdul-Majid requested the floor for public speaking. Ms. Abdul-Majid says she is concerned about entering the new semester without clarity about the interventions that will be implemented in response to academic concerns. Ramon Perdomo discusses the recent changes to the composition of Academic Excellence Committee, establishing the vision and purpose of the committee as well as suggests calling an additional meeting in between the next one to address those urgent issues.

8. Executive Session: Board Retreat - Next Steps (10 minutes, Chair)

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to enter executive session to discuss organizational structure issues within the scope of Open Meetings Law Sec. 105(f).

[REDACTED]

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to leave the executive session.

9. Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.