

**Hyde Leadership Charter School  
Trustees Meeting  
September 23, 2013  
Minutes**

Trustees Present:           Herb Fixler  
                                  Wilder Baker  
                                  Deborah Dumont  
                                  Herb Kaplan  
                                  Jeanette Melendez  
                                  David Steadly

Trustees Absent:           Dennis Mehiel

Also present:               Betsy Olney, Head of School  
                                  Mike McNamara, Chief Operating Officer  
                                  Staci Seeley, Development Director  
                                  John Gadenhire, Director of Alumni Affairs  
                                  Abby Rosenswaike, Recruiting Manager  
                                  Celia Sosa, High School Director  
                                  Lex Zain, Middle School Director  
                                  Peter Anderson, K-5 Director  
                                  Gina Ahn, Data Manager (K-12)  
                                  David Sachs, Guest  
                                  Jennifer Burns, Hyde Foundation

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:02 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

**1. August 26, 2013 meeting minutes**

A motion was made and the Board unanimously approved the minutes from the August 26, 2013 meeting.

**2. Education Committee**

To coincide with the start of the school year, Ms. Olney asked the members of the Academic Leadership team present at the meeting to introduce themselves and then proceeded to present an overview of Hyde’s evolution from its opening in 2006 through the first graduating class in 2013 and the school’s academic goals for 2013-14. Olney began by presenting K-12 state testing results and discussed strategies for specific student cohorts. She then invited Ms. Rosenswaike, Recruiting Manager, to present strategies for recruiting teachers. Ms. Rosenswaike shared data on summer 2013 recruiting activities and characterized the new teachers added for the 2013-14 school year as better qualified overall than last year’s cohort.

Lex Zain and Peter Anderson presented K-8 action steps for 2013-14 which included co-teachers for all 1<sup>st</sup> grade classrooms, integrated co-teaching with Special Education staff, greater use of Intervention teachers, particularly for Math instruction and a clearer alignment of K-12 curriculum.

Ms. Sosa was invited to present key initiatives for the High School and discussed the hiring of additional Math and ELA teachers and introduced John Gardenhire in the new position of Alumni Affairs Manager. Mr. Gardenhire spoke of outreach by Hyde to former students and some events he is planning for Winter Break to get Hyde alumni together—all with the goal of keeping them in college.

Finally, Ms. Olney presented K-12 action steps. Areas of focus in 2013-14 will be data-driven instruction, regular teacher observations and feedback and joy and engagement in classrooms.

### **3. Development Committee**

Mr. Fixler reported that candidates for the Director position were being interviewed. He proposed assignments to individual Board members for fundraising categories and asked for feedback on those recommendations.

Ms. Seeley presented events on the Fall calendar including an event for the Young Professionals Committee, Visitor's day on October 9 and a Hunts Point business leaders lunch on November 13. She reported that the Simon Foundation was not in receptive to making a grant at this time and that it was focused on test results vs. school peers. Mr. Sachs offered that the school's focus on helping its High School graduates stay in college would resonate with funders and suggested a student-driven fundraising strategy he found successful for another non-profit.

### **4. Head of School Report**

Ms. Olney reported she had just learned of the Parental Choice March which was being organized by others in the charter school community. Certain charter school leaders are concerned about the support for charter schools after the current Mayor leaves office and were looking to have 10,000 families march to show support. Ms. Olney was collecting information and viewpoints on whether Hyde should participate.

### **5. Finance Committee Report**

There was no report from the committee.

### **6. PR/Marketing Committee**

There was no report from the Committee for this meeting.

### **7. Nominating Committee**

Mr. Fixler encouraged Trustees to reach out to David Sachs who is a candidate for addition to Hyde's Board.

**8. Facilities Committee**

There was no report from the Committee for this meeting.

**9. Hyde Foundation Report**

Jenn Burns represented the Hyde Foundation at this meeting and reported she would be coming to Hyde monthly and would do so on days the Board met so that she could attend Trustees meetings on a regular basis.

**10. Executive Session**

The Board adjourned the public portion of the meeting at 7:50 pm to consider a personnel matter. The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:15 pm and voted to adjourn the meeting.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara