

**Hyde Leadership Charter School  
Trustees Meeting  
December 14, 2015  
830 Hunts Point Avenue Bronx NY 10474  
Minutes**

Trustees Present: Herb Fixler  
Herb Kaplan  
David Steadly  
Deborah Dumont  
Maureen Singer  
Oz Hanley

Trustees Absent: Wilder Baker  
Dennis Mehiel  
Jeanette Melendez  
Rob Kramer

Also present: Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director  
Michael McNamara, Chief Operating Officer  
Joanne Goubourn, Hyde Foundation  
Josh Williams, Director of Development

With a quorum present the meeting began at 6:04 PM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

**1. November 23, 2015 meeting minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the November 23, 2015 Board meeting.

**2. Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Sturtevant discussed a Parent Council meeting held Thursday December 10. A group of parents shared concerns with communications with teachers and administrative staff, dress code issues and parent accountability for their piece of the Hyde culture. The Trustees were very interested in hearing the issues discussed and asked a number of questions to understand the issues better and to impress on school leadership a desire to stay in touch regularly with parents about these and any other concerns that may arise. An action plan to address parental concerns is forthcoming.

He further reported on administrative changes at the school, including the promotion of Josh Williams to Director of Development. A search is well underway to hire a Director of Recruitment.

Mr. Sturtevant informed the Board of 3 expulsion hearings recently. One student was expelled and has notified the school it plans to appeal the expulsion to Hyde's Board of Trustees. A second student was expelled and the third's status is pending a Manifestation Determination Review (MDR).

Following the resignation of one of the High School's deans of students, a planned reorganization of the High School leadership team was implemented. The Manager of Alumni Affairs replaced the Dean of Students and his former workload is being shared among three senior administrators.

On December 15, Hyde is hosting the public hearing for its material charter revision request. That request is scheduled to be presented to the State Education Department's Board of Regents at its December meeting.

Sturtevant asked the Trustees to list their top priorities for school leadership and for the Board. Teacher turnover, raising academic performance and K-8 space constraints were listed as high priorities for school leadership. The Trustees set themselves the goals of fundraising and expanding board membership.

Sturtevant described the structure and operation of the K-8 Saturday Academy. This program is targeted specifically for 'cusp' students—those who were very close to proficiency on last year's state tests. This tactical approach to raising test scores should have near-term tangible results.

Longer term, the school has implemented a number of ongoing practices to increase academic rigor in the classroom and at home, increased writing and reading time in all grades and added focus on detailed common core standards.

Mr. Fixler thanked Sturtevant for a very thorough description of academic initiatives.

### **3. Development Committee**

Mr. Williams showed YTD November results. He pointed out pluses and minuses for fundraising performance to date but characterized the results as on or ahead of target for the year. He reported on the \$100,000 grant award we received from SUNY for capital improvements at the High School. He updated Trustees on the Foundation pipeline and activities by the Young Professionals Committee, among other items.

Mr. Fixler reminded the Trustees of the 'give or get' expectation for Trustees. He emphasized that potential funders look to see that Board members donate personally to the school as a demonstration of their support.

### **4. Finance Committee**

Mr. McNamara reported that November results were in line with recent months' performance and the school is on track to exceed its financial goals for the year.

### **5. Human Resources**

No report.

**6. Marketing/Advertising/Public Relations Committee**

No report.

**7. Facilities Committee**

No report.

**8. Education Committee**

No report.

**9. Government Relations**

No report.

**10. Hyde Foundation**

No report.

**11. Other Business**

None.

**12. Public Comments**

**13. Executive Session**

A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously by the Trustees present to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. At 7:53 pm, the Board exited the Executive Session.

**14. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Minutes prepared by Michael McNamara