

**Hyde-Bronx Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Hyde Leadership Charter School**  
**Trustees Meeting**  
**February 3, 2018**  
**277 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10172**  
**Minutes**

<b>Trustees Present:</b>	Herb Fixler	<b>Trustees Absent:</b>	Deborah Dumont
	Herb Kaplan		Jeanette Melendez
	Maureen Singer		Tony Stoupas
	Ruth Jarmul		Dennis Mehiel
	Richard Romanoff		
	Oz Hanley		
	Susan Engel		

**Also present:** Thomas Sturtevant, Executive Director  
Stephen Trowbridge, Chief Operating Officer  
Valarie Hunsinger, Director of Development and Communications  
Matt Hittenmark, Director of College Counseling and Post-Secondary Success  
Liz Springer, Special Education Director  
Lex Zain, Middle School Director  
Christine Froman, Elementary School Director

The meeting began at 9:00 AM, Mr. Fixler presiding.

**1. December 18th and January 22nd Board Meetings**

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved by the Trustees present to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2017 and January 22, 2018 board meetings.

**2. Nominating Committee**

Mr. Fixler welcomed Ms. Engel to the meeting and indicated that she is a candidate for Board membership. Ms. Engel is a Harvard Business School alumna with extensive business leadership, who has visited Hyde and has begun mentoring students. Ms. Engel was asked to briefly exit the room in order for the Board to deliberate. Ms. Jarmul motioned for Ms. Engel to be considered for Board membership, Mr. Romanoff seconded the motion, and Trustees present voted in favor of approving Ms. Engel for the Hyde Leadership Charter School Board of Trustees.

### **3. Introduction and Executive Director Report**

Mr. Sturtevant began the meeting by encouraging each attendee to introduce themselves. Mr. Sturtevant indicated that the purpose of this annual meeting would be to report on K-16 outcomes at a high level, to reflect on each board members commitment, and to discuss the overall role of Hyde's board in the long term success of Hyde. Mr. Sturtevant noted that the board is responsible for the following: oversight, strategy, and fiduciary. Mr. Sturtevant also asked each board member to reflect on their role in each of those responsibilities and how they are working to set a vision for the future of the school.

### **4. Inclusion Report**

Ms. Springer reported on the progress of the school's inclusive programs serving students with special needs, including students with disabilities and English as a New Language (ENL) students (See Appendix A). Ms. Springer noted that Hyde has experienced a steady increase in its percentage of students with disabilities over the past four years. Ms. Springer commented that the school's focus on character and developing each child's unique potential aligns strongly with inclusive practices; as such, the school has continued to invest in inclusive classrooms and integrated collaborative co-teaching (ICT). Ms. Springer reported that in 2017, Hyde's students with disabilities outperformed Bronx District 8 and New York State in ELA.

### **5. Elementary School Report**

Ms. Froman reported on the progress of the school's elementary school (ES) program serving students in kindergarten through third grade (See Appendix A). Ms. Froman reviewed the ES priorities for the 2017-2018 school year including school culture, student support, academic programs, and family and community engagement. Ms. Froman noted that all elementary staff participated in a start, stop, and continue exercise which have shaped the last few months. Ms. Froman noted the K-3 Leadership team and staff have focused on school culture through strengthening Hyde signature practices and the schoolwide response to behavior which includes a student support team, the ladder of interventions, and RAMAPO professional development. Ms. Froman highlighted the academic programs including IRLA and research labs that support ELA and Bridges and CGI that support math. Ms. Froman noted significant IRLA growth, with a decrease in emergency and at-risk readers, and a 14% increase for students who are proficient or reading above grade level. Ms. Froman also noted a focus on the 3rd grade ELA preparation through benchmarks. Lastly, Ms. Froman highlighted parent engagement and the goal of 100% for home visits. With regards to opportunities for growth, Ms. Froman indicated that the Elementary School's physical space continued to be a challenge. Also, Ms. Froman discussed opportunities around student support, curriculum offerings, and new family & community engagement.

## **6. Middle School Report**

Ms. Zain reported on the progress of the school's middle school program serving students in fourth through eighth grade (See Appendix B). Ms. Zain reported that the Middle School Leadership Team's foci/priorities for the year include teachers (professional development, recruitment, and retention) and students (academic outcomes, content knowledge, and character growth). Ms. Zain an increase in teacher retention for the 2016-2017 school year, including significant retention of Teacher for America teachers. Ms. Zain noted that the students are steadily exhibiting growth in both reading and math, and that a rigorous "writing across the curriculum" program has contributed to student growth. Ms. Zain noted a need for additional math support. Ms. Zain mentioned that beginning in 2015 – 2016, all Hyde eighth grade students complete three New York State Regents Exams; Living Environment, Algebra, and U.S. History. Ms. Zain noted that in the 8th grade, 94% passed Algebra 1, 81.7% passed Living Environment, and 63.4% passed United States History. Ms. Zain noted that regents exams in 8th grade have resulted in Hyde students that are better prepared for high school and are better able to pursue accelerated learning paths towards AP credit and Advanced Regents diplomas. Ms. Zain reported that nearly 7 out of 10 Hyde Middle School students transition to Hyde High School. Lastly, Ms. Zain noted middle school culture building and creating "Hyde as Home."

## **7. High School and Post-Secondary Success Report**

Mr. Hittenmark reported on the progress of the school's high school program serving students in ninth through twelfth grade, as well as the post-secondary success program supporting Hyde graduates on the path to college success (See Appendix A). In terms of academics, Mr. Hittenmark highlighted an increase in advanced regent diplomas. Additionally, Ms. Hittenmark reported that the high school has experienced high rates of teacher retention and that the following retention initiatives are in place: professional development, certification support, Faculty Fellowship Grants, leadership opportunities, and internal coverages and compensation. In terms of culture initiatives and practices, Mr. Hittenmark highlighted the use of Hyde's signature practices, restorative justice, high school help desk, use of kickboard, student-led initiatives, and community engagement. Mr. Hittenmark reported that the school's graduation rates remain high and that Hyde students continue to apply to college, enroll in college, and persist in college, at high rates. Mr. Hittenmark noted that 100% of on-track Hyde seniors have applied to college this school year.

## **8. Reflection**

The Board of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team journaled and shared out on their role in the school's success and their five year goals for Hyde.

**9. Other Business**

No report.

**10. Public Comments**

No report.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:35 PM.

Minutes prepared by Valarie Hunsinger