

Ascend Public Charter Schools
Meeting of the Schools Board of Trustees
November 13, 2018 6:30 pm

Location
Ascend Learning
205 Rockaway Parkway and via videoconference
Brooklyn, NY

Meeting minutes

Trustees in attendance

Stephanie Mauterstock (chair), Shelly Cleary (treasurer), Amanda Craft (secretary), Nadine Sylvester (trustee), Oral Walcott (trustee), Christine Schlendorf (trustee) [via videoconference]

Ascend staff in attendance

Dellianna Burrows, Daniela Brighenti, Andy Epstein, Kelly Garnes [via videoconference], Betsy Goldfarb, Erica Murphy, Susan Pollock, Brandon Sorlie, Steven Wilson

Others in attendance

Sally Bachofer, Jim Ford, Gus Saliba

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 6:42 pm.

I. Public comment

No members of the public offered comment.

II. Public comment update

No members of the public offered comment at the October board meeting.

III. Approval of minutes

Stephanie presented the minutes from the October 24 board meeting and from the October 24 executive session.

Nadine moved to approve the October 24 board meeting minutes and October 24 executive session minutes; Amanda seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

IV. Financial report

a. School financial reports

Andy presented the September 30 financial dashboards and accompanying narrative for the schools and the consolidated education corporation. In the report Andy reviewed the status of enrollment at the various schools and noted recent progress enrolling students at Cypress Hills Ascend Lower School.

b. FY 2018 audit

Andy then presented the results of the FY 2018 audit of Ascend Charter Schools, noting both that the corporation's days of cash exceeds goal and the positive assessment provided by the auditor that the audit was well-prepared and submitted in a timely fashion and resulted in no management points or deficiencies.

V. School and network updates

a. Benchmark 1 exams

Brandon reported on the results of the first ELA benchmark exams and the corresponding proficiency projections for the school year 2018-19 ELA state exams. He noted that the schools were just shy of their network-wide interim goal to remain on track to meeting the yearlong goal of increasing proficiency by 10 percentage points, and that he remains optimistic about meeting the goal given comparisons to previous years' projections and actual results. He then discussed grade- and school-level results, highlighting the notable progress of Ascend's middle schools in improving performance.

VI. Executive session [minutes recorded separately]

At 7:01 pm Amanda moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter; Oral seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

At 7:26 pm Shelly moved to exit executive session, Nadine seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

VII. Personnel matters

Amanda moved to appoint Tracy DeOliveira-Lewis as the director of Canarsie Ascend Middle School, effective immediately. Oral seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

VIII. Adjournment

At 7:27 pm Oral moved to adjourn the meeting, Nadine seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Name:

Date