

Ascend Public Charter Schools  
Meeting of the Schools Board of Trustees  
February 12, 2019 6:30 pm

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

Meeting minutes

**Trustees in attendance**

Stephanie Mauterstock (chair), Kathleen Quirk (vice chair), Amanda Craft (secretary), Shelly Cleary (treasurer), Kwaku Andoh (trustee), Christine Schlendorf (trustee), Oral Walcott (trustee)  
[all via videoconference]

**Ascend staff in attendance**

Andy Epstein, Kelly Garnes, Betsy Goldfarb, Erica Murphy, Susan Pollock, Dylan Schaffer, Brandon Sorlie, Steven Wilson

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**I. Public comment**

No members of the public offered comment.

**II. Public comment update**

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

**III. Approval of board meeting minutes**

Stephanie presented to the board the minutes of the January 15 meeting, and the minutes of the January 15 executive session.

Christine moved to approve the January 15 board meeting minutes and the January 15 executive session minutes. Shelly seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

**IV. Financial report**

Andy and Shelly presented the January 15 financial dashboards and accompanying narrative for the schools and the consolidated education corporation, reviewing major findings. They noted that several stabilizing events including the receipt of NYC DOE rental reimbursements indicate that the organization is in strong financial health based on year-end projections. There followed a discussion of the FY 2020 budgeting process; specific topics included the addition of structural mechanisms to enhance the budgets' predictive power, the expected management fee structure, and high school enrollment assumptions.

**V. School and network updates**

- a. Shared Text mastery

Erica presented a brief update on the schools' progress during Shared Text mastery being deployed in preparation for the NYS ELA exam in April. She noted that students are progressing well and that the schools and curriculum and instruction teams are closely monitoring student-level data with school leaders in an effort to maximize student progress through rapid adjustments to instruction and resources deployed across the schools.

b. Talent update

Betsy presented the January Talent dashboard, noting that the Talent team now has a fairly accurate picture of anticipated staff retention based on data collected from school directors. There followed a discussion about the status of leader hiring and staff retention at Brooklyn Ascend High School.

c. Student recruitment update

Kelly outlined upcoming student recruitment activities taking place in Ascend's target communities, including the 60 upcoming events to be attended by the student recruitment team through the application deadline in April. She discussed the benefits of the new structure of the canvassing team, which allows the team to cover multiple target neighborhoods on the same day and facilitates more personal interactions with potential applicants, a key driver of getting families to apply quickly ahead of the enrollment lottery.

**VI. Executive session (minutes recorded separately)**

At 7:11 pm Kathleen moved to enter into executive session to discuss two matters: the appointment of school directors to fill existing vacancies and planned openings at new schools, and a contract matter related to leases and financing agreements for Ascend's planned new schools. Amanda seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

**VII. Exit executive session; resumption of open meeting**

At 7:42 pm Kathleen moved to exit executive session and to resume the open meeting; Amanda seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

At 7:43 pm Kathleen moved to adjourn the meeting, Amanda seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Name:

Date