

Ascend Public Charter Schools
Meeting of the School Board of Trustees
July 7, 2020
10:00 a.m.

Location:
Video Conference

Meeting minutes

Trustees in attendance

Shelly Cleary (treasurer, via videoconference) Kwaku Andoh (trustee, via videoconference), Glenn Hopps (trustee, via videoconference), Stephanie Mauterstock (chair, via videoconference), Oral Walcott (trustee, via videoconference)

Ascend staff in attendance

Amanda Cuniff, Anastasia Michals, Andy Epstein, Angelica Harper, Anjya Thomas, Erica Murphy, Araliza Lopez, Billie Quigley, Brandon Sorlie, Caitlin Davidson, Camille McQueen, Carl Watson, Christina Pena, Crystal Lane, Dellianna Burrows, Dominique Artamin, Emeka Ibekweh, Erica Murphy, Janna Genzlinger, Korena Johnson, Leyde St. Leger, Lisa Margosian, Lissette Roman, Livia Angiolillo, Marsha Gadsden, Miatta Massaley, Nancy Olisma, Nicole Duckett, Octavia Jackson, Christine Pena, Pascale Artamin, Raymond Johnson, Shani Foster, Shanice Morris, Sha Sophie Kramer, Sulafa Bashir, Tracy DeOliveira-Lewis, Zeldia Washington, Zhuo Biao Cai, Zia Hinds, Marion Eccleston (all via video or teleconference)

Stephanie called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

I. Public comment

There was no public comment.

II. Public comment update

Brandon responded to Michele Henry, a teacher at Ascend, who asked at the prior meeting what plans are being put in place to keep Ascend's dedicated teachers. Brandon reiterated that high quality teachers drive our students' success. Ascend firmly believes in teacher retention and is on track to exceed its goal of 75% retention. Ascend will strive to retain its talented team during this period of restructuring by maintaining transparency with teachers and staff. Ascend is focused on preserving teaching position above all other roles, abiding by our guiding principle of all dollars being student dollars and our belief that teachers are the key drivers of student success.

III. Approval of board meeting minutes

Stephanie presented to the board the minutes of the June 24th meeting. Oral made a motion to approve the minutes of June 24, 2020. Shelly seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

IV. Executive session (minutes recorded separately)

At 10:10 am, Kwaku moved to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation and personnel matters at Ascend Learning. Oral seconded the motion, and all trustees voted in favor and entered executive session.

V. Exit executive session; resumption of open meeting

At 10:30 a.m. Shelly moved to exit executive session. Oral seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

VI. Annual meeting

The board review a resolution electing Stephanie Mauterstock as Chair; Shelly Cleary and Glenn Hopps as Co-Treasurers; and Christine Schlendorf as Secretary of the Ascend Charter Schools Board for the 2020-2021 school year. Shelly motioned to approve the resolution, and Kwaku seconded. The motion was carried unanimously.

The trustees agreed to elect the following committees: Oral, Stephanie, and Nadine to the Nominating Committee; Oral and Amanda to the Hiring Committee; Shelly, Glenn, Kwaku, Stephanie, and Christine to the Finance Committee; Amanda, Stephanie, Kwaku, and Nadine to the Academic Committee; and Stephanie, Shelly, Glenn, and Christine to the Executive Committee.

VII. Budget approval

Andy detailed the FY21 Ascend Charter Schools budget, including anticipated revenue, expenses, target net income, and enrollment assumptions. Shelly motioned for the board to approve the FY21 ACS budget. Oral seconded the motion, which the board approved unanimously.

Stephanie read a statement from the Board to the Ascend Staff:

“Thank you for all your leadership and for the immense amount of challenging work done over these past eight weeks that was so thoughtfully and comprehensively presented at the June 24 and today’s meeting. You provided an incredibly thorough roadmap through a future landscape of so much uncertainty. I admire and appreciate your leadership to make difficult decisions to ensure the sustainability of our schools and success of our students. The board stands behind the direction in which Ascend is moving.”

VIII. The work continuing

Erica and Carl described the ongoing work this summer to prepare for the upcoming school year. Lisa then shared Ascend’s SY2021 strategic imperatives and asked the board how they might anchor their work and their goals in these organizational imperatives. The board discussed in advance of further conversation in an upcoming board meeting.

IX. Scheduling

The schedule of meetings for the coming year was presented and approved and will be added to the calendars.

X. Adjournment

Stephanie thanked the Ascend team for their impressive work. At 11:06 a.m., Kwaku moved to adjourn the meeting. Oral seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by:

Name:

Date: