



MOTT HALL
CHARTER SCHOOL
RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE

MOTT HALL CHARTER SCHOOL

June 18, 2013

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “**Board**” or “**BoT**”) of the Mott Hall Charter School (the “**MHCS**”), was held at Mott Hall Charter School, Annex of 1260 Franklin Avenue between 168th and 169th Street, Bronx, NY 10459 on June 18, 2013, beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m. local time pursuant to notice duly given.

Attendance

The following Trustees were present in person at the meeting: **Patrick Awosogba, Brenda Bravo, Xenia Cox, Charles Stern, Natalie Thompson, and Francesca Weindling.**

The following Trustees participated via phone: **Sarah Calderon and Charles Stern.**

The following school staff members participated in person: **Bob Lesser, Executive Director- MHCS, Yajaira Adorno, Business Manager – MHCS, Jill Jansson, Science Teacher-MHCS.**

Peter Oroszlany and David Tinagero were absent from the meeting.

No parent(s) attended this meeting.

Brenda Bravo presided at this meeting and Natalie Thompson recorded the minutes as secretary.

Call to order and Public Comment

After noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order. Ms. Bravo reviewed the agenda and opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Jansson, Science Teacher- MHCS asked about the flyer (see attached) from the PS 63 parent association and the scheduled picketing and protest outside MHCS. Mr. Lesser responded and informed everyone that we were surprised by this reaction as MHCS has successfully co-located with the elementary school this entire school year and are committed to continuing to work in partnership with PS 63 to ensure that the needs of



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both school communities are met as long as we share this building. We have asked the DOE to help us find a location since the construction of our planned for site has been delayed. We reached out to DOE Portfolio Planning for guidance and are working with the DOE.

Acknowledgement of the Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2013 meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved by the BoT.

Executive Director Updates

Board Packet Review - Mr. Lesser briefly reviewed the contents of the Board Packet. Packets were available prior to Board meeting.

Academic Program

Thirty-two students and their families have been informed of the expectation for attendance in summer school as a result of not meeting the city's promotional criteria on the 2013 NYS ELA and/or mathematics exams. Five general education students did not meet the promotional criteria in math and thirteen general education students did not meet the criteria in ELA. All remaining students have special needs and Individualized Education Programs with two students being English Language Learners. We are recommending that all students not meeting the criteria attend summer school to reinforce learning goals. Final promotional decisions for those attending summer school will be determined at the beginning of August upon the release of summer grades and test results. Interim Assessment 4 is being administered in all core subjects throughout June.

Enrollment

After consideration of factors including budget, programming, staff morale, student safety, etc. MHCS will set enrollment for next year at two sections of thirty students each. This determination was based on our current space constraints and the effects that a third section would add undue hardship on staff and students at this time.



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After a multi-round interview process involving input from the Board and staff Michael Williams has been offered and accepted the principal position at MHCS. He will begin working half-time the week of June 24th and start full-time the week of July 1st.

We have posted and are accepting resumes for outstanding teaching positions and initial interviews are being planned.

Operations

We are continuing to work with the DOE to find a suitable space for the 2014-15 school years and beyond. We will continue to work with the 167th street and 3rd avenue developer continues to pursue alternative financing options.

Social and Emotional Health and Youth Development

The School will be running a number of Learning Journeys this July. These experiential small group experiences include gardening at the local community garden, learning about the Bronx River with Rocking the Boat, Living the Yoga Lifestyle, and learning about the restaurant business at Amali Restaurant.

Girls Leadership Institute Camp – After receiving half scholarships, we are sending 3 of our young women leaders to this internationally recognized camp from June 22-July 13th in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

Yes! Camp. We are working to identify ten high need students to attend this week-long leadership camp in North Carolina from June 30-July 7th. We are receiving 2/3 scholarships for these students.

Parent Events and Communications

We are planning a Family Field Day on the last day of school for students, the afternoon of July 10th. Bronx Lebanon Hospital will be providing a DJ, bounce houses, face-painters, and health and wellness services. Current and new parents and families are invited.



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Expulsion Appeal Hearing

Mr. Lesser and Mr. Steward, Principal –MHCS posted the BOT on student discipline of Niko Brown, who engaged in a Level 5 incident of the MHCS Long Term Suspension and Expulsion Policy. They reviewed the details of assault of four staff members which required the NYPD to escort Niko and his mother to Bronx Lebanon Hospital. Niko was placed on suspension and the MHCS executive team, after extensive intervention efforts unanimously request expulsion.

Rosalind Scott, Niko's mother, requested an appeal of the expulsion of her son from Mott Hall Charter School for assaulting four staff members and injuring one and was to attend the June 18, 2013 Board meeting.

The Board was informed that Ms. Scott would not be in attendance as she was on vacation.

Mr. Stern made a motion to move to executive session to further discuss the Expulsion Appeal and request for expulsion. Motion was seconded by Francesca Weindling.

After careful review and exhaustive discussion the BoT unanimously approved the expulsion of Niko Brown from MHCS.

Motions for Discussion and Approval

a) Approval of Budget

Mr. Lesser reviewed the MHCS annual budget and MHCS budget forecast. The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the proposed budget for fiscal year 2014.

Committee and Taskforce Updates

Executive Committee:



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Finance/Operations Committee: Patrick Awosogba posted the Board on the review of the budget and the committees work to consolidate and restate line items. These efforts are reflected in the proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2014.

Governance Taskforce: Francesca Weindling posted the Board on the taskforce's review of the MHCS By Laws and will report back on proposed changes.

Fundraising Taskforce: Mr. Lesser highlighted the success of the Board Fundraising Training. As a result we will hold our first fundraising event in the early Fall.

Academic Taskforce:

Forward Agenda

1. Taskforce Updates
2. MHCS's "Whole Child" Accountability System Update
3. Board Packet Review

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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Natalie Thompson
Secretary

APPROVED:

Sarah Calderon
Chair