

**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**

**March 14th, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustee (the “Board” or “BoT”) of the Mott Hall Charter School (the “MHCS”) was held on the above date beginning at 5:39 p.m. local time pursuant to notice duly given.

**Attendance**

* The following Trustees were present: Natalie Thompson (Video Conference), Karen Bhatia (Video Conference), Francesca Weindling (Video Conference), Don Mabrey (Video Conference), Dr. Patrick Awosogba (Video Conference), Luis Quan (Video Conference)
* The following Trustees were absent: Sandra Lugo and Don Mabrey

The following school staff and guests were present: Connie Lobdell, Principal and Executive Director; Yvette Colon, Director of Operations (DOO); Josh Moreau, Financial Consultant; Janel Johnson, Parent; Badini Bienvenue, Student; Kadysha Morton, Student; and Reality Muhammad, Student (SGA).

**Call to Order, Public Comment and Board Discussion**

* After noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 5:39 p.m.
* Public Comments:
  + Reality Muhammad:
    - Concerns regarding spacing and lack of space for sports.
    - Stated school is very cramped, testing is interrupted, and MHCS does not receive the same respect the other school requests during testing.
    - Sports – more space is needed for students and staff. There are so many teams that more than one gym is needed.
    - Spacing very often affects students by being cramped up.
    - Sharing with the other school makes it hard for students.
* Kadysha Morton:
  + There are so many scholars in one space.
  + During transitioning, students bump into each other and shove because the halls are full.
  + Classrooms are very small and not big enough.
  + A bigger space will be better with more space for classes.
* Janel Johnson:
  + Her son shares with her that spacing is not enough to run and play sports.
  + Likes the school but the spacing is not giving children proper space to grow.
  + Some of the children, like her son, are big. He wears a size 12 shoe and is 6 feet tall.
  + Her son and the two young ladies have expressed they have to be here and cope with the conditions, and try to feel good in their surroundings.
* Badini Bienvenue:
  + One of the most noticeable issues is the small annex building.
  + Space is being shared and there is not enough space.
  + Would like to have clubs, but there are not enough classrooms.
  + The gym is very small an affects the abilities of the activities in sports.
  + The annex is very hot and results in scholars and staff getting headaches.
  + Natalie Thompson asked “What solution do you think would help?” and Badini Bienvenue responded “The space is what needs to be changed. A bigger building would be what we need!”
* Josh Moreau:
  + Financial Update
  + Natalie Thompson has been in discussions with Josh Moreau regarding Signature Bank issues and asked if they were in a good place, and Josh Moreau responded that they were in a good place.
  + Meeting with Connie Lobdell and Yvette Colon the following week to review budget.
  + Intent to Return will be going out the beginning of April.
  + Will review the increases of staff as last year for review and approval by June.
  + Per pupil increase is being looked at as 2.5%. Collection should not drag too far into the year.
  + Natalie Thompson - The Finance Committee will be meeting with Josh Moreau over the next few days.
  + Karen Bhatia asked if most of the school’s monies were with Signature Bank. Josh Moreau responded that monies have been moved since keeping multiple accounts helps the school. Chase Bank account is active, and are able to move the monies.
  + Natalie Thompson - There is a need to diversify a little bit more with Finance Committee and share out.
  + MHCS has protection and are in good shape.
  + Natalie Thompson – May come back to the Board with financial information for responses that will need a quick turnaround.
* Connie Lobdell:
* Ms. Kero and Mr. Tavarez are no longer with the school.
* Spreading the math teachers across classes.
* Dr. Awosogba asked what is meant by spreading them out. Connie Lobdell explained that the classes are doubled up with teachers and mathematics is covered and they are in a good place.
* Since there are new Board members wanted to explain the benchmarks.
* The state will come half way through the term and need to show we are part of the community and partaking.
* Dr. Richard Izquierdo Health & Science Charter School is in the building this evening partaking in the Parent-to-Parent meeting, showing them that MHCS is part of the community and so are they.
* Grants are supporting the large sports program being run this year.
* Food pantry addresses the cost of food and shows support for the community. The school has begun collecting food items.
* Karen Bhatia asked about home visits. Connie Lobdell informed that staff have begun going out on home visits and they were able to see how scholars are living.
* Teachers scored ELA mock.
* Natalie Thompson:
  + Approval of February 16th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes.
  + In contact with the state.
  + Email is out for a call with the state to find out when there will be a liaison.
  + Will share CAP completion and relevant information they need so that it does not impact the school for renewals.
  + Trying to understand what has changed regarding concerns for space arising now when there have been 275 enrollments previously.
* Dr. Patrick Awosogba:
  + How can space planning be revisited with P.S. 63?
  + Natalie Thompson asked if a meeting with the principal could be arranged.
  + There is supposed to be a monthly meeting with the principal. Have they occurred?
  + Natalie Thompson wanted to know if space planning meetings were happening.
  + Connie Lobdell can call him for support with P.S. 63.
  + Natalie Thompson suggested Dr. Awosogba and Connie Lobdell meet with the principal of P.S. 63.
* Yvette Colon:
  + Reviewed Accountability Dashboard
  + Will be sending the Board High School results.
  + Jason Caldwell said he would be open to travel to Pennsylvania for sport materials pick up from the Level the Playing Field Grant.
* Karen Bhatia:
  + May 6th, 2023 is Global Day of Service and asked if people would be interested in committing to volunteer service.
  + Board can come out and participate.
  + Career Day – share experiences of college and work, navigating the college process.
  + Volunteer mentorship – sitting and working one on one. She can show past blurbs to consider for review.

**Board Motions and Approvals**

1. Motion to approve February 16th, 2023 minutes made by Karen Bhatia, and seconded by Luis Quan - Board reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Lugo, Secretary

APPROVED:

Sandra Lugo

Name

 \_April 20th, 2023\_\_\_\_

Signature Date

*All trustee meetings for Mott Hall Charter School are open meetings subject to the NYS open meetings law.  While we encourage public participation and provide a designated time for public comment, individuals are limited to two minutes total of public comment each, unless the Board asks for additional feedback.  All trustees and members of the public must abide by norms around professionalism and civility in their comments. Complaints against a specific employee or public comments that may reveal confidential information will, consistent with the open meetings law, be handled through our dispute resolution process or may be heard in executive session.*