

Thursday, November 18, 2021 @6:03 p.m.

Board Meeting via Zoom

Meeting ID: 843 3724 6136

Passcode: CGu!3L

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Adoption of October minutes

3. Vote to elect Board Members to serve another term: Justin Tolliver, Noel Acey, Tanya Hoffler Moore: 11/1/21-11/1/23

Susan Reid, Peter Low, Amanda Low: 7/1/21-7/1/23

4. Key Metrics

5. School Report

6. Board Committee Reports

7. Public Comment

8. Adjournment

**Trustees Present**

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| Richard Bayles |
| Gretchen Pusch |
| Justin Tolliver |
| Noel Acey |
| Peter Low |
| Amanda Low |
| Tanya Hoffler-Moore |
| Reby Gulcan |
| Jonathan Stearns |

# Storefront Academy Staff:

Dr. Nicole Campbell, CEO

Mr. Stuart Wolf, Director of Finance

Ms. Natalia Perez, Director of Communications

Ms. Carol Singletary, South Bronx Principal

Ms. Taleema Chesney, Harlem Principal

Ms. Amia Fisher, Dean of Harlem

Ms. Maria Ruiz,

**1. Call to Order**

* Mr. Bayles called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m.

**2. Adoption of September Minutes**

* Mr. Bayles called for a motion to adopt the minutes from the October board meeting. After discussion regarding proper annotation of active discussions that occurred during the sessions, the motion for adoption of the minutes was made, seconded, and the motion passed without objection. The minutes were adopted.

**3. Vote on Board Members' Terms**

* A motion to extend the terms for the following board members, for additional 2-year terms each member, was made: Justin Tolliver, Noel Acey, Tanya Hoffler-Moore, Susan Reid, Peter Low, and Amanda Low, for the respective terms as stated in the agenda.
* There were no further nominations or objections to the nominations.
* Ms. Hoffler-Moore and Ms. Reid were not present at the time of the vote, but the board discussed and agreed that, in accordance with the by-laws, the members could be elected in absentia, and they could resign if they did not desire to stay in the board. Mr. Bayles affirmed Ms. Hoffler-Moore's desire to remain on the board, given previous conversations with the member.
* After being provided an opportunity to do so, Mr. Tolliver, Mr. Low, and Ms. Low affirmed their desire to stay on the board.
* There was a motion to extend the terms as board members for Ms. Reid, Mr. Low, and Ms. Low; there was no further discussion; the motion was seconded; and the members' terms were extended without objections.
* Discussion regarding the effective date of the reappointed terms ensued, with a question whether the terms would begin at the date of the annual meeting or at the time of the vote, and further research and guidance from SUNY was required. If upon further research and consultation it was necessary to address the term timeframes, the votes/election, and/or any other issue, the subject would be brought forth at the next board meeting.
* A discussion regarding adding another member to the Executive Committee given that the by-laws required five members. Ms. Gulcan volunteered for this committee.
* A motion to appoint Ms. Gulcan to the Executive Committee was made, seconded, there was no further discussion, and the motion was approved without objection.
* Ms. Hoffler-Moore joined the meeting after the initial vote was taken, and Mr. Bayles ascertained that she wished to be a part of the board.
* There was a motion to extend the terms as board members for Mr. Tolliver, Ms. Acey, and Ms. Hoffler-Moore; there was no further discussion; the motion was seconded; and the members' terms were extended without objections.

**4. Key Metrics**

* The South Bronx campus had 280 students enrolled.
* Some students had been withdrawn because their families moved out of the state.
* The Harlem campus had 75 students enrolled.
* Both campuses showed an 87% attendance. The goal was 92%, which was challenging especially given positive COVID cases. In-person Second Grade attendance had to be shut down due to COVID, turning this grade to virtual-only. This has affected attendance.
* An attendance committee had been formed, which met weekly, to discuss attendance issues and incentives for students.
* Virtual instruction would not be an option after the new year, unless students had a medical excuse/reason that would enable them to qualify for virtual instruction.
* Some students' families indicated they would not return after the holidays.
* There had been discussions with a company specialized in digital marketing campaigns to increase recruitment. The CEO recommended this campaign to begin in January 2022.
* There was a discussion about the changes in enrollment through the year, which began with 302 enrolled students in the South Bronx campus and 73 students in the Harlem campus.
* A math curriculum overhaul by the Lavinia Group would cost the Academy an additional $260k annually, and the Group would like to make a multi-year commitment, if the Academy wished to engage in this curriculum. The English curriculum currently costs $120k by itself. A lot of the additional costs were around the professional development seats allocated for both English and math curriculums.
* Purchases related to the new, upcoming library were underway, to include books and the corresponding cataloguing computer system. Finding and hiring a librarian specialist was pending.
* A donor and volunteer agreed to provide $10 per student so they can purchase books at the holiday book fair, in lieu of the usual holiday party.
* Harlem School for the Arts, which provides art, music, and dance education, approached Mr. Stearns about providing art classes for the Academy. This would be in combination with the upcoming partnership with Julliard, and would include a 16-week, after-school program to teach dance to students of both campuses. The HSA would provide the teacher, but the Academy would need to provide a monitor/assistant. The cost per 16-week program and instructor is $12,936.
* This could be further utilized as marketing opportunities.
* This would be for a group of 20 K-2nd Grade students, 20 3rd-5th Grade students, and 20 Harlem campus students, a total of 60 students, which could further be utilized as an attendance incentive for students.
* If the program was approved by the board to be implemented, Mr. Stearns volunteered to fund the first 16-week term. The first term would begin in February.
* A motion to accept the contract to work with the HAS was made, seconded, there was a discussion to make the instant vote effective at the next board meeting, and the amended motion was approved without objection.

**4. School Report**

* Data was already contained in the CEO report.

**5. Committee Reports**

**Academic Committee**

* For the South Bronx campus:
* The fall math MAP benchmark was 38%, compared to last fall's 30%.
* The fall ELA MAP benchmark was 51%, compared to last fall's 51%. The internal accountability goal for fall-winter is 55%, but a goal of 60% by January.
* For the Harlem campus:
* The fall math MAP benchmark was 57%, compared to last fall's 53%.
* The fall ELA MAP benchmark was 55%, compared to last fall's 59%.
* A discussion regarding a comparison between MAP scores and the Lavinia Group curriculum showed that the Group provided a system to begin looking at math improvements, notwithstanding not having contracted that curriculum with the Group.
* Goals were set per each grade level.
* Lavinia Group collaboration allows the Academy to strategically plan upcoming learning standard focus, based on student groupings specific to their needs.
* Test scores from the fall reflect goals and effectiveness of a time before the Lavinia Group was involved, since the collaboration had just begun. These would be a baseline to compare pre- and post-Lavinia Group data. Further MAP data would reflect growth directly related to implementation of the Group's methods and techniques.
* Student level of engagement has increased, making this a more student-led and student-involved learning environment.
* Lavinia Group goals and current progress will be added to monthly reports hereinafter.

**Development Committee**

* There was no report.

**Governance Committee**

* Issues had been discussed when the board slate terms were discussed.

**Finance Committee**

* A total of $200k toward the loan with the Children's Storefront had been paid in October.
* Applications for the ARP ESSER grant had been submitted. If approved as submitted, some of the grant could be utilized towards the current school year.

**Real Estate Committee**

* The analysis regarding the Children's Storefront had been received, and the recommendation was to negotiate a 2.5% annual increase for that property. Further discussion and analysis was required.

**7. Public Comments**

* There were no public comments.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.