

## BOT Meeting Thursday June 18, 2026 Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Sander, Thomas Gorrell, Robert Ansbro, Ted Francavilla, Lucas Doe, Christopher Brignola

Administrators in attendance: Norma Hurwitz, Eddie Kubina

Not in Attendance: Sean Blackwell

Meeting Called to Order by Jim Sander 6:38 pm

### I. Approval of Minutes

Robert motions to approve the minutes, Ted seconds, all in favor

### II. Budget

Meetings took place with leadership to create a new budget. There were different expenses that are a result of being out of DOE space and having our own building. We are now more aware of what to expect. The budget is conservative. There are built in reserves to account for unexpected expenses. We are budgeting for a number lower than current enrollment. The charter school population in the Bronx is saturated. Despite lower enrollment we still have a strong cushion. If our student numbers aren't what they are or what we hope they're going to be in September we still have a good amount of cushion.

We are in a good situation with our finances and the school has a strong balance sheet. The school does not waste money and is able to remain profitable despite enrollment challenges. In making the budget, we based it on a lower enrollment number to account for any unexpected changes.

Since we have a strong budget, we can look at different ways to add value to the school to make it more enticing for students to enroll. We always do a revision to the budget midyear to account for any unforeseen events, whether good or bad.

Robert makes a motion to accept the budget as written, Lucas seconded and there are no objections. All are in favor, none opposed.

### III. Six Week Assessments

Our final period assessments went well. There was a drop off in some classes, but for the most part student performance was high. We feel the staff has done a good job this year and students have made strong progress throughout the year.

#### IV. Executive Director Review

The board has agreed to a five percent raise for the Executive Director and a \$10,000 bonus.

A goal for the coming year would be to plan an initiative to attract more students to the school. The number one reason would be the strong academic performance of the school.

We have already established goals around the recruitment effort. The goals of the charter school are established by the state and that is part of our accountability plan. To establish goals beyond that may be overly ambitious. We have explored a lot of options over the past three years. We have increased our advertising. We have created charts to compare our results to other schools, specifically high schools that are in the same area as our school. The goal is to help families realize the actual performance of the schools that they are considering.

We have multiple students who have gotten into high performing or specialized high schools. It is sometimes difficult to retain students when they have these opportunities.

We will look to add an SAT Prep course as it is a good idea. We should also look to add AI into the classroom. A dual language program also might help attract students and could potentially increase funding.

We also teach students about investing and how to read a stock chart. Students are able to use mock investment accounts in order to track progress and determine when to buy or sell. They are also given an overview of budgeting.

There are AI tools that can be used to support math and other content areas. We will look into how to incorporate this.

#### VI. Committee Reports

Building: Nothing new to report.

Finance: There is nothing new to report on.

Education: Nothing new to report.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:34 pm.