

**The Charter High School for Law and Social Justice
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting**

Date: February 20, 2025

Location: Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and In-Person)

Time: 6:00 pm-6:47 pm

Members Present:

- John Callahan, Chair
- Linette Tse
- Rick Marsico
- Rina Beder
- Amy Fuller
- Ben Hirsch

Absent:

- Janine Azriliant
- Jumaane Saunders

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Callahan at 6:00 pm.

2. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the **January 20, 2025**, Board of Trustees meeting were reviewed. **Motion:** Rick Marsico motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Rina Beder.

Vote: All in favor. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Consent Agenda:

Chair Callahan presented the items on the consent agenda, which included the **tax return Form 990**. The tax returns were discussed and approved during the finance committee meeting. No further discussion was necessary.

Motion: A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Lynette

Tse, seconded by Amy Fuller.

Vote: All in favor. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

4. Finance Committee Report:

The finance committee, represented by the Executive Director, Rick Burke, provided a detailed update on the school's financial status. Key points included:

- . **Cash on hand:** The school currently has \$4,000,002.38 in cash, with approximately \$1,000,900 in an Israeli Discount Bank making 4.2% interest.
- **Deficit forecast:** The middle school is experiencing a deficit due to lower-than-expected enrollment, while the high school remains in a surplus position.
- . **Upcoming revision of projections:** New financial projections will be provided in the **March** meeting, including revenue and enrollment numbers updates.
- The Deficit in the Middle School will be more significant due to lower enrollment and costs of setting up the building and preparing for the opening in a short period of time and a few grants that receipt was lower than projected. Mr. Burke said the deficit could be double the original projection, but we have the cash, and he will provide new predictions.

The discussion also included ongoing efforts to improve middle school enrollment and the impact of grants and other funding sources on the budget.

5. Chair's Report:

Chair John Callahan gave an update on various ongoing and upcoming matters:

- . **March Board Meeting:** The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held at the middle school on **March 20, 2025, at 6:00 pm**, with an academic meeting beginning at **5:00 pm**.
 - . **School Facilities Update:** Discussions about the fire alarm system, new construction, and building improvements were briefly
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mentioned. The need for an updated alarm system and potential building renovation was raised.

- **Enrollment and Recruitment Efforts:** Strategies to increase enrollment, especially in the middle school, were reviewed, including outreach efforts targeting fifth-grade families for the lottery.

6. Academic Report:

The academic report was presented in brief by the Mr. Burke, Executive Director,

Regents Exams: The results of the January Regents exams will be shared in the March meeting.

- **Student Activities:** Several student events were mentioned, including a field trip to the Museum of Jewish Heritage and virtual sessions with Holocaust survivors.

7. Fundraising Report:

Chair Callahan informed the Board about an upcoming fundraising event:

- **Fundraiser Event:** A cocktail party fundraiser will be held at **Charlotte Dewald's** house on **April 5, 2025**, to support the construction of the outdoor kiln structure. Details will be finalized soon, and invitations will be sent to targeted contributors.
- **Committee Reports:**
- **Governance Committee:** The governance committee's role was briefly discussed, noting that no immediate actions were needed.
- **Finance Committee:** Met on Tuesday before this meeting. Further financial discussions will continue, focusing on revising the five-year budget in the coming months.

8. New Business:

- There was no new business.
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9. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present to provide comments.

10. Motion to Adjourn:

Motion: A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Rick Marsico, seconded by Amy Fuller.

Vote: All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Next Meeting:

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be held on **March 20, 2025**, at 6:00 pm at the Middle School, **121 E. 177th St, Bronx, NY**, with an

~~Academic Committee meeting beginning at 5:00 pm~~ on Zoom and in person.



Jack Cdllahan, Chairperson

3/14/25