



THE CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

1960 UNIVERSITY AVENUE
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Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
Charter High School for Law and Social Justice
Date: September 19, 2024,
Location: Hybrid Meeting (Zoom and In-Person)
Time: 6:05 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Members Present: In-person: John Callahan (Chairperson), Executive Director/HOS Richard Burke,

Via Zoom: Amy Fuller, Christian Bannerman, Janine Azriliant, Rina Beder

Zoom Guest: Brian Landin, Principal, Benjamine Hirsch

Absent: Linette Tse, Jumaane Sanders, Rick Marsico

1. **Welcome** and Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Jack Callahan, Board Chairman.

2. **Consent Agenda**

The August Minutes were included in the consent agenda. No objections or changes were raised. As there were no further comments, the minutes were approved by default.

3. **Financials**

Mr. Burke reported on the financials, highlighting a positive cash flow with \$5,074,594 on hand, equating to 114.5 days of available cash. The budget was being adjusted due to lower- middle school enrollment because of the lateness of approval, but even with lower enrollment, our deficit will be less than projected. (51 scholars compared to the budgeted 70). It was noted that high school enrollment was strong, with approximately 475 students requiring additional class sections. The adjusted budget would reflect a \$45,000 deficit, down from the initial projection of \$286,000.

4. **Executive Director Report**

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Mr. Burke provided an update on the start of the school year, reporting that the middle and high schools were functioning smoothly. He reported that tonight was “Back To School” Night, and both schools had a good turnout. He reported that when visiting the different classrooms and grades, it appeared like the 9th grade was an outstanding group of students last year, and the 6th grade was full of energy and excited to be there.

He also highlighted the ongoing work to address fire safety issues at the middle school, noting the need for fire guards due to the outdated fire alarm system. Staff members were being trained as fireguards to reduce costs. He reviewed that August was the month of PD for staff and preparation for the opening of both HS and MS. It was an excellent start to the year.

5. Chairman Report

The Chairman, Mr. Callahan, reported on the ongoing development of the new building, stating that it would likely be ready for occupancy by 2027. He also spoke of the negotiations with the archdiocese for the middle school space and ongoing rent negotiations.

Additionally, Mr. Callahan introduced Benjamin Hirsch, a former teacher and current political staffer, as a prospective Board member.

6. Committee Reports

Finance Committee: The Finance Committee met earlier in the week to review the financials discussed during the meeting.

Academic Committee: A meeting is scheduled for October, with a presentation by Sarah Fuentes on academic progress.

Fundraising Committee: Fundraising efforts were briefly mentioned, with plans to discuss later.

Governance Committee: The need for a fall meeting was raised, with discussions about potential changes to the evaluation process using external evaluation tools.

7. New Business

Ben Hirsch was introduced to the board, and Mr. Burke spoke about his excellent teaching skills when he worked at LSJ and led the LSJ NY Marathon Team, which



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raised \$30,000.00 for the school. Mr. Hirsch introduced himself, gave a short bio, and answered questions.

Mr. Callahan read the motion:

The Charter High School for Law & Social Justice Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting, which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Benjamin Hirsch as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on September 2027 pending approval by NYSED.

Rina Beder moved, Dr. Bannerman 2nd and the resolution approving Benjamin Hirsch was anonymously adopted upon NYSED's approval.

8. Statements from Members of the Public

No public statements were made during the meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

10. Motion to Adjourn

Amy Fuller motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded it to Rina Beder. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

John Callahan
Chairman

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Date: September 19, 2024 Meeting of BOT
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Motion:

Read by Mr. Callahan, moved by Rina Beder, Dr. Bannerman 2nd, and the resolution approving Benjamin Hirsch is anonymously adopted upon NYSED's approval.

"The Charter High School for Law & Social Justice Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough criminal history record check via fingerprinting, which is deemed acceptable by NYSED, and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine, and having reviewed the application in its entirety, has voted to select Benjamin Hirsch as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on [DATE], pending approval by NYSED. The resolution approving Benjamin Hirsch is adopted upon NYSED's approval."

Approved by the Board on September 19, 2024


John Callahan
Board Chairman