



Classical Charter Schools

Board Meeting Minutes March 1, 5 2024

Classical Charter Schools prepare students for college preparatory high schools' programs and colleges. Through a classical curriculum and highly structured setting, students become liberated scholars and citizens of impeccable character.

Trustees Attending: C. Stephen Baldwin, Jake Elghanayan, Kathryn Heleniak, Veena Malpani, Mariel Jenkins Taylor, Robert Torres

Trustees Absent: James Maher (dialed-in), J. Kevin Murphy, Adrian Tonge,

Guests Attending: Lester Long, Arnaud Camu

I. Call to Order

There being a quorum, the Chair called the meeting to order.

II. Minutes of February 13th Meeting Passed

The Trustees:

VOTED to adopt the draft of the February 13th, 2024 minutes as submitted.

III. Resolution to admit Arnaud Camu to the board

The Trustees VOTED to adopt the resolution admitting Arnaud Camu to the board.

IV. Report of the Executive Director

A. Staff Attrition

- a. Attrition remains high at School IV
- b. Our system struggles to identify who will become an effective School Leader. We had an ineffective School Leader at School IV and it caused problems all around.

- i. Effort to isolate the characteristics of an effective leader
 - ii. Communicating with staff appears to be key
 - iii. Coaching does not appear to be an effective preparation for leadership. Grade Team Leaders appear to be better prepared.
 - c. School IV director role is currently divided by 2 individuals serving as interim directors. It appears to be going well.
- B. Student Applications
 - a. Major area of concern. The number of applications has dropped 75%
 - b. This is consistent among charter schools and DOE schools, not specific to Classical
 - c. What is our acceptance rate? It is around 50% of acceptance students that enroll
 - i. Census data shows the South Bronx has lost population
 - d. It's a centralized common application
 - e. Our schools have sufficient students enrolled
- C. Consulting is bearing fruit
 - a. We have regular dialogues with 3 other schools
- D. School V Application is submitted
 - a. Likely a meeting in April with SUNY (the authorizer)
- E. Public Prep
 - a. Network of single sex schools in the Bronx
 - b. Not performing well and are under registered
 - c. Likely will merge with another school
 - d. We declined a merger with them
- F. There is an open charter for a school in the Bronx that never opened in 2021 – Stratford Preparatory Charter School for Boys. We are in discussions to see if we can obtain it.
 - a. They have a \$500,000 deficit associated with costs of trying to open.
 - b. If we acquired the charter we would have to pay it. We are looking at ways to structure paying it back.
- G. Scholar achievement is going well as well as behavior
- H. Technology and Data is strong
- I. ESSER grants (created by COVID) end in June
 - a. We are taking a close look at costs

IV. Report of the Board Chair

- A. Discussion of Staff Survey
 - a. 65% Participation rate. Ideally it would be 70-75%.
 - b. Generally a positive report
 - c. Discussed areas for improvement
 - d. Communication with employees could improve

Respectfully Submitted,

Veena Malpani, Secretary