

Board Meeting Minutes
Global Community Charter School

April 23, 2020

6:34 p.m. – 8:39 p.m. (scheduled to convene at 6:30pm)

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees (BOT) for Global Community Charter School (GCCS) held on April 23, 2020 in the school building at 2350 Fifth Avenue.

JZ noted quorum (JZ, MJ, KM, IY, and RM in attendance) and called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM

Roll Call

BOT by video conference: James Zika (JZ); Mary Jilek (MJ); Kate McGovern (KM); Rob Moser (RM); Peter Kauffman (PK); Ibrahim Yusuf (IY)

BOT Candidate by video conference: Nick Pozek (NP)

GCCS Staff: Bill Holmes (BH);

GCCS Staff by video conference: Kristan Norgrove (KN); Jasmin Candelario (JC)

Parent Representation: None

Public by video conference: Damaris Harron-Watkins, Matter Real Estate (Alex Weis and Jordan Camina), Bridge Philanthropic Consulting (Brandon Parkes and Max Larsen)

Public comment

No public comment

Approval of Minutes

MJ moved, and KM seconded, a motion “to approve Minutes from the March 18 Regular BOT Meeting.” The motion was passed unanimously (JZ, MJ, KM, RM, IY).

Introduction of Potential Board Member

MJ introduced Damaris Harron-Watkins as a potential BOT Member. The BOT as well as School Leadership introduced themselves.

Bridge Philanthropic Consulting Update

Brandon Parkes led a discussion around the campaign for Giving Tuesday (May 5th).

Matter Real Estate Update

Alex Weis presented an update on the Dance Studio Renovation work. A question was raised concerning if we would anticipate construction delays because of COVID-19, it was indicated that we should not expect delay.

Alex Weis presented an update on the Middle School Real Estate Expansion work. It was discussed that we heard from the landlord that he is not interested in the terms we proposed for his financing of the project. A question was raised if the landlord is open to the improvements even if he is not interested in financing. It was indicated that he would be. Matter Real Estate also updated the BOT on efforts to have a workable first floor option, next steps in advancing conversations with other lenders as well as pursuing conversations with PellOverton. MJ also recommends that we consider blended solutions (i.e. combined first floor and off-site options).

Introduction of Potential Board Member - Part 2

Damaris Harron-Watkins introduced herself as a potential BOT Member. JZ thanks Damaris for attending and participating in the meeting.

Bids for Audio System

BH introduced the need for a new Audio System, the bids acquired and the recommendation. There was discussion about the solutions themselves, if we spoke to other schools with the systems, expandability of solution, reliability and training.

Noting no further discussion, RM moved, and IY seconded, a motion “to approve the purchase of a new Audio System from ACS International.” The motion was passed unanimously (JZ, MJ, KM, RM, IY, PK).

Fundraising Task Force Update

KM discussed the highlights of the recent work of the Fundraising Task Force. There was a discussion about a virtual training with Bridge Philanthropic Consulting as opposed to the planned in-person training. There was consensus for doing it virtually. KM also introduced a discussion about what the BOT might want to do with the Global Tastes and Toasts event.

Finance Committee Update

IY indicated that the bulk of recent conversations have been about the financials around Middle School Expansion.

Academic Report

KN discussed the status of current remote learning efforts, how we are meeting the attendance requirements, supporting families without internet access and providing social-emotional support. JZ asked about how our staff is doing in this remote environment. KN shared a number of actions the School Leadership Team is taking including one-on-one check-ins with all academic staff.

Education Accountability Committee Report

KM discussed a number of highlights of recent EAC discussions including the planning for any summer programming we might want to provide, parent communications, in particular, promotion in doubt and recommendations for activities for Spring Break for students, families and staff.

Operations Report

BH provided an update on operational activities including budget season work, technology distribution, lottery/registration update and care packages. JZ asked about how registration rates compare to previous years. BH provided information as to how he is tracking this with Marlene and Angel. MJ asked about family engagement during the registration process. BH shared what the School Leadership Team is doing to support new family engagement.

Other Board Business

MJ indicated that we will need a special BOT meeting to meet the schedule for construction project approval.

KM asked if we knew of any families in “food crisis” that we should be addressing. BH indicated that we were not aware of any.

JZ thanked School Leadership for all they are doing and Damaris for participating.

Adjournment

JZ adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM.

All trustee meetings for the Global Community Charter School are open meetings subject to the NYS open meetings law. While we encourage public participation and provide a designated time for public comment, individuals are limited to two minutes total of public comment each, unless the Board asks for additional feedback. All trustees and members of the public must abide by Global Community Charter School norms around professionalism and civility in their comments, these norms can be found in our school handbook. Complaints against a specific employee or public comments that may reveal confidential information will, consistent with the open meetings law, be handled through our dispute resolution process or may be heard in executive session.