

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF CULTURAL ARTS ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Cultural Arts Academy Charter School was held at 1400 Linden Boulevard, Brooklyn, New York 11212 on September 18, 2019.

IN ATTENDANCE:

- Henry Clouden III, Treasurer
- Shirley A Glasgow, Secretary
- Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President
- Chrysetta Patterson, Member
- Dr. AR Bernard, President (via phone)
- Dr. Laurie B. Midgette, Principal

VOTE

The financial statements of Cultural Arts Academy Charter School were prepared by Stuart Sabal and presented by Henry Clouden, Treasurer. The Board reviewed related statements of activities and cash flows for one month, with the accompanying supplemental information. These statements were discussed in detail. There is sufficient cash to fund monthly operations.

RENEWAL APPLICATION PRESENTATION – CAACS has partnered with Pasek Consulting for our renewal application submission.

Cultural Arts Academy Charter School at Spring Creek opened in 2010-11, with our first charter term ending in 2014-15. For our second charter term, we received a two-year term including the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years. In 2017, our charter was renewed for a three-year term, spanning the 2017-18 through 2019-20 school years. The 2019-20 school year is CAACS-SC's 10th operating year. Our school continues to be led by Founding Principal, Dr. Laurie Midgette. Our current board consists entirely of founding board members and has been led by Dr. A.R. Bernard, Sr.

Board of Trustees

The CAACS-SC Board of Trustees (the Board) currently has our original founding 5 members and 3 ex officio members. Our trustees have deep roots in the community and have backgrounds that include education, legal, and business expertise. The Board recognizes a need to add additional members. The board is seeking to add at least one new trustee with experience in elementary education to help deepen the board's ability to oversee the academic program of CAACS-SC.

Global Designations

In March 2019, CAACS-SC received designation from the International Baccalaureate (IB) as an official Primary Years Programme (PYP) school. We are proud of this achievement, as the IB requires schools to meet extensive program criteria in order to be designated as an official PYP school. This designation confirms that our program meets the rigorous academic framework set

by the PYP. Further, CAACS-SC is also recognized as a Lighthouse School through the Franklin Covey Leader in Me program.

Parent and Teacher Satisfaction

Parents and staff have shown consistent satisfaction with CAACS-SC over the course of our third term. The NYC Survey satisfaction scores for CAACS-SC increased in every category between 2017-18 and 2018-19. Notably, our parent and teacher response rate was 100% in 2018-19. Satisfaction is demonstrated in several strands of the survey, in particular in 2018-19:

- 98% of families say that they are satisfied with the education their child has received this year;
- 99% of families say that they are satisfied with the overall quality of their child's teachers this year; and
- 96% of teachers say that they trust the principal.

Academic Performance

In this time period, CAACS-SC made academic gains, including:

- CAACS-SC's ELA proficiency increased by 5 points between 2017-18 and 2018-19, meeting the proficiency of students in grades 3-5 in CSD 18.
- In addition, between 2017-18 and 2018-19, all grades increased their ELA proficiency at CAACS-SC.
- CAACS-SC's math proficiency increased by 3 points between 2017-18 and 2018-19 to reach 31% proficiency.
- Between 2017-18 and 2018-19, CAACS-SC's 4th and 5th grade increased proficiency in math by 6 and 18 points, respectively. Further, in 2018-19 our 5th grade math proficiency exceeded that of 5th grade in CSD 18.
- Notably, in 2018-19, 50% of our 3rd grade scored proficient in ELA, an increase of 13 points from 2017-18. Further, 3rd and 5th grade ELA proficiency at CAACS-SC exceeded the 3rd and 5th grade ELA proficiency for students in CSD 18.

Restorative Justice Practice

CAACS-SC has a longstanding record of few suspensions each year. We have a well-developed discipline policy outlined in our Code of Cooperation, which is distributed to families each year. We follow a restorative approach to discipline. CAACS-SC participated in the Restorative Justice section of New York City Department of Education's District-Charter Collaborative in the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

Enrollment and Retention

CAACS-SC is making progress toward our enrollment targets. Our enrollment of economically disadvantaged (ED) students increased from 62% in 2015-16 to 69% in 2018-19 and our enrollment of ELLs increased from 0 in 2016-17 to 1% in 2017-18 and 2018-19. While our enrollment of SWD increased between 2016-17 and 2017-18, it decreased between 2017-18 and 2018-19. We continue to analyze our enrollment strategies to identify new methods for recruiting students from all three subgroups.

Financial Health

In the next twelve months, Cultural Arts Academy Charter School at Spring Creek has sufficient cash flow to cover our liabilities expected over the next 12 months; and, our actual enrollment is within 15% of projected (budgeted) enrollment. In terms of our debt management for this charter, CAACS-SC has met all debt obligations. The school has maintained adequate financial resources to ensure stable operations and has monitored and successfully managed cash flow. We operated at a surplus in FY 19.

Future Plans

CAACS-CS is currently focused on increasing our academic outcomes for all students, including students in at-risk subgroups. We are particularly focused on math in the 2019-20 school year, and have planned an intensive schedule of math professional development that will be led by contracted experts to provide our teachers with support in implementing a rigorous math curriculum.

Submitted --- Shirley A. Glasgow, Board Secretary