



## **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 December 21, 2022, 6:30pm-7:30pm.**

**Henry Clouden III, Treasurer  
Cheryl Pemberton-Graves, Vice-President  
Chrysetta Patterson, Member  
Dr. A.R. Bernard, President  
Dr. Kimberlee Pierre  
Dr. Laurie B. Midgette, Principal**

**The meeting was called to order at 6:33pm with a quorum present.**

### **FINANCIAL COMMITTEE REPORT - VOTE**

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

### **OML UPDATE**

Mayor Adams, by executive order, extended NYC's COVID-19 State of Emergency for thirty days or until it is revoked. This executive order allows for entities in New York City subject to OML, including all charter schools, to continue to hold meetings virtually (for charters this will impact board and board committee meetings) until December 21, 2022.

### **AUDIT UPDATE**

On October 26, 2022 our engagement with the BDO audit firm ended after 12 years. CAACS has engaged with a new audit firm, NCheng, LLP. NCheng LLP was founded in 1989 in New York City. Their practice is dedicated entirely to serve the not-for profit community and they have achieved broad recognition and reputation for our high quality professional services and 10 NYC charter schools. They provide a full range of services in audits, accounting and financial management support.

## **Laurie Hazeley's Departure Letter**

*"Dear Leaders of Renewal Charter Schools:*

*I'm writing to share that I've made the difficult decision to leave my role here at the NYCDOE. The opportunity to serve as partner to you in your work with students and families has meant the world to me; I learned from you all every day. Your commitment, intentionality, and care for your communities inspire me and I cherish the partnership we have built. I do not step away from this lightly. Regarding the renewal process, transition plans are being solidified, and Erin Cochran, IA Senior Executive Director of the Charter Schools Office will be in touch with further updates. Please know that I have fully presented to Erin all of the learning from our site visit and she is aware of all next steps needed to move recommendations forward for spring Board of Regents Meetings, as we have already discussed. She will reach out to you with any needed next steps. I'll be in the office through Wednesday, November 23 before taking some time with the family. I hope that our paths will continue to cross! Please don't hesitate to reach out. With gratitude, - Laurie Hazeley - Senior Director, Charter Authorizing "*

### **DATA DASHBOARD**

**Attendance: 90.62%**

**Immunization: 91.1%**

- 17 ELL's have provisional status
- 3 are in the process of being translated.

**Families in Shelters: 16**

**Enrollment: 204 (226 in ATS)**

- SPED – 26
- ELL – 18

**COVID Vaccinations: 65**

**FRPL: 75.24%**

**Apollo Afterschool: 18**

- 8 scholars are CAACS-subsidized

### **ACADEMIC DATA –New Scholars Mathematics**

- 11 ELL's were tested in grades 2-5 using the iReady diagnostic.
- Of the 11 scholars, 3 (27%) scored one grade below.
- 8 scholars (73% scored 2 or more grade levels below on their math diagnostic.
- 2 of the scholars are projected to be on grade level for math by the end of the year with minimal intervention.
- 1 scholar is projected to be on grade level for math with tailored intervention.

The language barrier and use of computers may not show the full capabilities of our ELL's, and many of them must receive intervention 3-5 times a week to push them closer to proficiency in math.

### **ACADEMIC DATA – New Scholars Reading**

- This assessment was taken in Spanish; it assessed scholars in their native language.

- 10 ELL's were tested in Grades 2-5 using the i-Ready diagnostic Spanish assessment for reading.
- Of the 10 scholars, 5 scholars (50%) met grade level expectations.
- 4 scholars (40%) partially met expectations.
- 1 scholar (10%) did not meet grade level expectations.
- For this assessment, the iReady system does not project where they will be at by the end of the year.

Scholars in grades K and 1 were not tested using the iReady system. Instead, we utilized a paper-based assessment; however, it was evident that many of them have not received any formal schooling up to this point. Number and letter recognition was minimal in both English and their native language. At least one of our scholars is perceived to be a SIFE scholar (Student with Interrupted Formal Education).

#### **HECKSHER FOUNDATION Grant Award**

CAACS partnered with the Lavinia Group and applied for and received a grant in the amount of \$39,000.00 dollars that was voted in support of the charitable project "Partnership between Cultural Arts Academy Charter School and Lavinia Group" (Grant #22-00894) with a grant period from December 16, 2022 to June 30, 2023, on behalf of Lavinia Group (Grantee) and Cultural Arts Academy Charter School (Project Partner) by the **Trustees of The Heckscher Foundation for Children (Foundation)** on December 15, 2022. This will fund 50% of our instructional initiative with Lavinia to improve our test scores in ELA and Math.

*Happy Holidays to staff, scholars and families!*

**Adjournment** – 8:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Shirley Glasgow, Board Secretary