

Minutes of Grand Concourse Academy
Board Meeting , Zoom, April 18, 2023

Board in Attendance: Arlene Hall, Richard Conley, Walder Thame-Turner and Valarie Cesca

Absent: Felix Moquete

Staff: Michael Simonetti, Ira Victor, and Martin McDowell

Meeting #10-6:00PM

Arlene Hall moved for approval of the minutes of the 2/17/2023 Meeting, with adding the Minutes of 625 Bolton LLC Meeting for approval as well. Valerie Cesca seconded the motion which was approved by the Board.

Financial Report

Martin McDowell presented the financial report. He indicated funds have been deposited with Metropolitan Bank for T Bill deposits, as well Chase Bank for T Bill deposits. Revenue and expenses are solid on budget. Richard Conley commented on need to complete filing for real estate tax exemption.

Operations Dashboard

Michael Simonetti provided an update on Operations Dashboard. The admission lottery has been completed. 100 parents attended admissions meeting, 500 applications in lottery. 776 students projected next year. Additional revenue of \$1.5 million projected with this number of students.

Michael provided the response rates on the annual survey. 80% teacher response, 11 more is goal. 65% parents responded, or 454, want 100 to 200 more. 71% student response rate. Staff working to achieve 80% or better, which is satisfactory. It is difficult for parents with more than one child in the school because they have to do multiple surveys.

Martin McDowell is working on staff recruitment. Pandemic easing of standard is ending. Uncertified teachers now are required to get certified. Martin is recruiting certified teachers to replace those that fall out.

Former student has set up vending machines in school. GCA will take % of proceeds. Hiring another former student as security/traffic control.

Ira Victor's Report

Ira discussed hiring Valerie Cesca, a former GCA teacher now Board member, to proctor exams. Ira will do this if he determines there is no conflict of interest.

Discussion was further held on hiring Howard Banker as a part time Director of the Support Corporation. The board was supportive of this happening and Ira will confirm with SUNY if this would be permissible. There was discussion of what activities the GCA Support Corporation will undertake, and if fundraising, what funds would be expended on.

Ira discussed the annual **National Charter School Conference**. Ira, staff members, and Arlene Hall will be attending. Ira extended the invitation to Board members. The Conference is scheduled June 18th to June 21st.

Ira discussed the Lavinia Rise Summer Program. It will meet daily 9 AM - 3 PM and the focus will be on education as well as recreation.

Staffing: Terminated 2 teachers this year.

Parent/ Teacher Conferences / and Hold over projections were discussed.

Construction of School Expansion: Design Plans conditionally approved by the NYC Department of Buildings with just one objection. Construction is projected to start July 5.

Ira reported GCA received a \$423,000 grant for summer school pay for teachers, books, and computers.

The Board discussed security/safety and recommended GCA study what other schools are doing and recommend any changes to current protocol to enhance security.

Ira reported GCA has 197 students enrolled for summer school. GCA is focused on hiring staff for teaching.

Other News

Arlene Hall discussed Dept of Health involvement with the school/discussing being a partner school with DOH and benefits of doing that.

Arlene also spoke about engaging an event planner for upcoming GCA anniversary and suggested administration set a date.

At 7:35 Dick Conley moved to adjourn the meeting. Valerie Cesca seconded, and the Board approved.