

Minutes of the September 27, 2018
Grand Concourse Board of Trustees

Members in Attendance: Howard Banker, Arlene Hall, Linda Manley, Jaye Fox, Lucia Mariani and Richard Conley

Staff in Attendance: Ira Victor, Martin McDowell, Maureen Howard

Ms. Hall opening the meeting at 6:45 and welcomed everyone.

The Board reviewed the minutes of the August 22, 2018 board meeting. With corrections upon motion made by Mr. Banker and seconded by Ms. Fox the Board unanimously approved the minutes.

Upon motion made by Ms. Mariani and seconded by Ms. Hall the Board meeting schedule was amended to eliminate the October 16, 2018 meeting and schedule two meetings for the night of October 17, 2018.

Mr. Victor updated the Board on recent personnel changes. GCA has had to fire three employees who are believed to be linked to a string of thefts that have occurred in the building. The administration is working with the local police precinct. There is a risk of identity theft so employees advised to send to free credit check monitoring.

Current student enrollment is 582. The opening of school has been challenging especially as it relates to busing. The busing issues appear to have been resolved. Six teachers have been terminated since the beginning of school for poor performance or job abandonment. GCA had additional staff that have been assigned to these classrooms. We will have 5 special education classrooms with 11 teachers assigned. We have expanded the number of teachers focused on the arts including music and theatre. GCA has added a Greek teacher who is teaching culture and mythology. The afterschool program will open next week.

Mr. McDowell reviewed the financial statements. The reductions in staff are not yet reflected in the financials. We are switching payroll companies moving from ADP to Paychex.

October 4, 2018 will be the Board of Regents vote on the GCA charter renewal. We are planning on organizing students and parents to attend. Board members will also attend.

Mr. Victor updated the board on the progress of the construction of the new building. The second floor has been added and the divisions for the rooms have been added. Turner Agassi maintains that they are on target for on time completion. The board discussed the role of the construction monitor and whether that was the professional service that was needed at this point in the construction. In connection with the move to the new building, the Board discussed the need for community outreach to promote the school.

Mr. Victor is attending a reading conference in Syracuse this weekend.

Upon motion made by Mr. Banker and seconded by Ms. Manley the meeting was adjourned.