

Minutes for December 19, 2023
Board of Trustee of Grand Concourse Academy

Board members in attendance: Arlene Hall, Richard Conley and Valerie Cesca **Absent:** Felix Moquete, and Walder Turner

GCA staff in attendance: Ira Victor and Martin McDowell

Guest: Daniel Pasek, Charter School consultant

The Board Chair, Arleen Hall, opened the meeting at 6:15PM and thanked everyone for coming.

- 1) Minutes of November 28, 2023:** Reviewed and the minutes were approved by Board.
- 2) Potential Expansion Opportunities:** The first item on the agenda was a discussion with Daniel Pasek. The focus was the possibility of working with another Charter School to expand into high school years. A meeting will be set up in the new year to expand the discussion.
- 3) Financials:** Mr. McDowell presented the November financials. Net Revenue as of November 30th was in line with budgeted. Revenue has been off this year but savings has kept the budget in balance.

A discussion was held regarding \$130,000 in legal fees billed by Orrick. This is the firm which represented GCA in the Bond transaction to purchase the school. Orrick has continued to perform duties surrounding the entities and various filings, including the tax exemption. The firm was asked to provide detailed hours and billing rates prior to the fee being paid.

4) Discussion:

Testing Results First Two Months of Academic Year: Scores, while improving since the pandemic, are still below expectations. Strategy by administration is to concentrate more resources in classroom to tighten focus on reading and math, the basics, and bring improvement.

Covid Retention Grant: GCA has hired ERC Expert Group to file for its Covid Retention Grant.

Appointment of New Director of Instruction: The school will be appointing a new Director of Instruction. This position works closely with teachers to develop instructional material and teaching aids to facilitate strategies.

Covid Retention Grant Mr. McDowell discussed the school has retained an accountant to receive \$600,000 from this Grant source.

School Entry Pass The school administration is implementing a Bar Code ID system for all to get secure access to the school. A contract for \$12,000 is in process.

(5) Facility Report: Expansion Update: The project is progressing near on time. EuroStar, the contractor, is moving quickly. Completion is expected in March.

(6) Executive Director's Report:

1. Ira Victor discussed the School Holiday program and encouraged the Board to attend if available, as well as the staff luncheon. He also discussed the Eighth Grade Carival being put on for K through 2 grades.
2. Next Meeting: January 16th, 2024.

In Executive Session Ira Victor discussed a Kindergarten student with behavioral issues and the need to expel the student.

Valerie Cesca moved to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Richard Conley. The meeting adjourned at 7:41PM.