

**Opportunity Charter School  
Board of Trustees—Minutes  
Thursday, November 17, 2016**

**Trustees Present:** Alice Cutler, Maxcel Hardy, Tamara Adam and Philip Pallone. June Smith & Eric London via video conference.  
Also present Melba Wilson, Non-voting Board member

**Absent:** Rob Zellner & Peggy Culver

**Executive Staff Present:** Leonard Goldberg & Jason Maymon

**Public Notification:** Notice of meeting on OCS website (as of November 10, 2016) and posted on front door of OCS and displayed in the OCS main office (beginning November 10, 2016). Attending Members of the Board of Trustees met at 315 West 113<sup>th</sup> Street at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was led by the Board Chair June Smith. A quorum was reached with 6 out of 8 voting board members in attendance.

- **Adoption of October Board of Trustees' Minutes**

A vote to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2016 BOT meeting was taken with all in favor and no dissensions.

**CEO Report - Leonard Goldberg, Founder/Head of School**

- *Post-election Debrief*
- *Charter Renewal Visit Recap*
  - Day 1
    - We demonstrated that OCS has a solid collage and career readiness program in place as evidenced by our strong graduation rates, peer-group comparison data, Alumni Specialist, and partnership with The Children's Aid Society.
    - We outlined a robust professional development plan that includes increased collaborative learning between middle school and high school teachers, and our ongoing partnership with Engaging Schools.
    - We made a compelling argument that staff turnover is a problem across all NYC schools but is magnified by OCS's challenging work environment.
  - Day 2
    - We rebuffed the DOE's assertion that OCS's high attrition rates were problematic and explained that we view students leaving after 8<sup>th</sup> grade as a sign of progress and evidence that we have prepared them to apply to a mainstream school.
    - We emphasized that our approach will remain focused on meeting the individual needs of our students, and therefore progress will look differently with regard to transitioning students out of OCS to mainstream schools.
    - Our closing argument: "This is a long-term project. When you take students like ours it is the most difficult thing to do in education to teach them the skills they need. What we see over time is that these students are passing the Regents and graduating. Give us the opportunity to do even better."

- *Public Hearing*
  - Speakers:
    - Sandra Escamilla-Davies, CAS VP of Adolescence, The Children's Aid Society
    - Ashley Mashihhi and Julie Koster, SoulCycle
    - Sareen Pearl, Program Director, Street Squash
    - Steve Zimmerman, NYC Coalition of Community Charter Schools
  - Letter of Support Submissions (Internship Providers):
    - John Jay College
    - Rocking the Boat
    - The New Jewish Home
- *Next Steps*
  - OCS Follow Up (November)
  - DOE Report (December)
  - Renewal Decision (January-March)

#### **Communication from the Public**

There were no comments from the public.

#### **Executive Session**

The Board moved to Executive Session to discuss Legal and Personnel Issues.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.