

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Board Chairman, Mr. Julio Vázquez, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present:

Julio Vázquez, Dr. Marcia DeJesús-Rueff, Angélica Pérez-Delgado, Miriam Vázquez, Ryan Caster and Eugenio Marlin.

Board Member Absent:

Miguel Meléndez, Nelida Torres, and Robert Frasier Jr..

School Staff Present:

Sandra Chevalier-Blackman, Nikki Kersbergen, Wanda Serrano, Leslie Rivera, John Harris, Morgan Krolak, LaConda Graham, Tara Ramirez, and Amy Schiavi.

MISSION MOMENT:

Ms. Ramirez presented the Mission Moment. The Mission Moment was video clips on what the middle school has done and will be doing for the new school 2023-2024 school year.

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

The next board retreat is to finalize the evaluation of the CEO, Ms. Chevalier Blackman. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 4th at 5:00 p.m.

The next board retreat is scheduled for Thursday, October 19th at 5:00 p.m. to begin preparation for the SUNY Renewal.

CEO REPORT:

Attendance:

- August's attendance was an average of 82%.

Enrollment:

- June's enrollment was 964 students.
- July's enrolment is 1070 students.
- August's enrollment is 1105 students.
- September's enrollment is 1071 students.

The Data Dashboard that was presented during the meeting included the following:

- K-12: NYSESLAT Exam Scores & ELL Analysis
- 9-12: August Regents Exam Scores

Operations:

Capital Campaign Project:

- 3 Qualifications came in. Bridging docs to go out within a week
- Bids/Proposals 30-60 days
- New developments and possibilities
 - The project cost about \$40m
 - Includes 7-12th Grade Campus w/ Gymnasium

Kodak Campus / Updates

- The repair list totaling \$37k is completed (minus ceiling and floor tiles)
- There will be a meeting with the Kodak leaders on September 28th.

1119 Joseph Avenue

- SUNY's response was received on Monday, and waiting for the closing date

COVID 19

- The amount of cases has increased.
- A staff affidavit has been created and shared with staff.
- EMHCS is considering PCR internal testing.

Safety and Security

- Great response to Armed Guard
- Student support Liaisons onboard
- Presented at PTO on School Safety
- The main Safety Plan is updated and on the school's website

ELT Updates:

Before School:

- Before School: 92 students are enrolled with 87% attendance
- The programs available are Sports, Literacy Club, Arts and Crafts, Tutoring Club, Book Club, and DIY Club.

After School

- The program will begin October 16, 2023
- The programs available will be Music Club, Theater Club, Dance Club, Gymnastics, Journalism, and DIY Club.
- 80 students signed up at the elementary campus, 23 at the middle school, and 3 students at the high school.

PTO

- PTO was Tuesday, September 19th, and the topic was School Safety

Important Dates:

- Hispanic Heritage Celebration will be held Thursday, October 12th at 5:00 p.m. at the Zimbrich Campus.

CEO Updates:

The following items were discussed during the CEO Updates:

- HR Updates – the school is currently 99% staffed.
- Thank you to Poder 97.1 for attending the first day of school celebration at the elementary and middle school campus.
- Building school culture by visiting each campus and having the opportunity to chat with staff.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE:**NYS Test Scores**

- Test scores will be discussed at next month's board meeting.

Key Components

- Professional Development
 - What impact has professional development have in the classroom?
 - Ensuring there is student-to-student engagement
 - Providing a high level of task is happening.

Coaching

- Additional push is needed at the middle school.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER REPORT/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT: The finance committee met before the board meeting. The D.A. Davidson & Co. did a brief presentation on tax-exempt bond financing. The finance committee passed a motion for D.A. Davidson & Co. to engage them in providing information on financing the Capital Campaign Project.

Financial Reports

Ms. Kersbergen reviewed the financial statements as of August 31, 2023. Please see the attached reports.

ACTION ITEMS

August's board meeting minutes were presented for approval. Ms. Pérez-Delgado moved the motion, and Mr. Marlin seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Caster abstained as he was not present.

August's financials were presented for approval. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Ms. Pérez-Delgado seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:**Building Committee:****High School Campus**

- EMHCS will proceed in building the high school campus.

- It will be cost-effective to do the project at this present time
- The school will avoid the risk of running out of space at the Kodak Campus.
- The school has received three quotes and is waiting on LeChase to see if they also wish to provide a quote.

Mr. Marlin presented a motion to authorize the CEO of EMHCS to do the due diligence to secure the funding for the school expansion project based on the proposed construction scope and the recommended funding proposal. Mr. Caster moved the motion, and Ms. Pérez-Delgado seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Zimbrich Bathroom Renovations:

- The school had set aside and approved \$350,000 for renovating the Zimbrich Campus bathrooms. Several contractors came and submitted their proposals, and the amounts came in higher than the original amount set aside for the project. Three bids came back: Hamilton Sterns, UDN, and Nichols Team.
- Voting on them now will allow locking in the alternative pricing and ensure that all eight bathrooms get renovated during this school year. The amount for the renovations is approximately \$750,000.

Mr. Marlin presented a motion to amend the previous motion to increase the Zimbrich bathroom renovation to up to \$1,000,000. Dr. Vázquez moved the motion, and Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

During the Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Caster passed a motion to authorize management to engage D.A. Davidson to assist the school during the financing journey of the project.

Governance Committee

Renewal Terms

- During October's board meeting, there will be a couple of renewal terms:
 - Miguel Meléndez and Ray Ciccarelli
 - 1 vacancy for the 2023-2026 period
 - Ryan Caster's position is up for renewal in 2025
 - Two parent representatives will be elected for October's board meeting.
 - The board will need to recruit three board members. They wish to have one with HR experience and an attorney on the board.

Resignation

Mr. Robert Frasier's resignation was presented for approval. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Mr. Caster seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Personnel Committee

Human Resources:

- Kudos to Ms. Martinez-Allocco for getting the school 99% fully staffed.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

No new business.

Executive Session

No executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Vázquez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting with no other business to discuss. Ms. Pérez-Delgado moved the motion, and Mr. Marlin seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 31, 2023; the meeting location will be at the Administrative Office at 977 Joseph Avenue, conference room, Rochester, NY 14621.

Respectfully submitted,

Angélica Pérez-Delgado
Board Secretary