



Amber Charter Schools

Minutes

January Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday January 8, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Location

Kingsbridge Elementary Campus: 3120 Corlear Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

Trustees Present

Amador Centeno, John Gutierrez, Kim Ramos, Li'Esha Garcia, Lindsay Marino Long, Luina Munoz-BlueSpruce, Robyn Epps, Soledad Hiciano, Timothy Day

Trustees Absent

Brad Olsen, Khiera Pena, Miguelina German

Guests Present

Christine Ganey, Clarisse Alvarado, Emily Griffin, Kirsys Gomez, Rose Castillo, Veronica Almedina

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

John Gutierrez called a meeting of the board of trustees of Amber Charter Schools to order on Wednesday Jan 8, 2025 at 6:16 PM.

C.

Check-In

II. Development Committee

A. Updates

- Two potential venues: Circo Nightclub in Midtown or Radio Hotel.
- Possible Date: A Thursday in October or a Wednesday
- We need to create a list of possible sponsors and venues.
- Prizes were given to board members for the popcorn fundraiser.
 - Board member shared that Doublegood downsized the popcorn bags. Poppinpopcorn this year was a bigger bag and tasted good.
 - Board member shared that The old website showed status and reminders. Poppinpopcorn wasn't as user-friendly.
 - Board member stated double good has urgency with a shorter window. This year's window of selling was too long.
 - Board member stated people were resistant to buy due to Christmas being so close. Next year, different time of the year.

III. Co-CEO Report

A. Monthly Update

- Co-CEO showed the board all the strategies that we have implemented to raise our ELA and Math tests.
 - The ones not highlighted will be launched later.
- Co-CEOs were interviewed by Bronxnet and the segment aired today.
- Board Open House will be at two locations first week of February. East Harlem & Kingsbridge Elementary at 9am.
- East Harlem front entrance stairs will open on Monday, January 13th.
- Enrollment and admission are starting soon for 25-26. Enrollment for upper grades has stopped for this school year, but students above 3rd grade are still being enrolled.
 - Board Chair asked if we did an ad on Power 105.1: Co-CEO reported that we did not.
- Co-CEO reported we will be completely digital with BoardOnTrack for the next month. She reviewed with board members the information we need for their profiles & how to use the platform to find meetings.

IV. Board Chair Report

A. Monthly Report

- Board Chair asked about our immigration students. Do we have a plan?

- Co-CEOs over the break received some advice in case ICE comes to the school. Reviewed what our rights are.
- Board member said she has a colleague who is helping immigrants over Zoom about how to plan for an emergency.
- A board member asked about creating a plan with backup family/friends for picking up our immigrant students.
- Board Chair suggested we review or create a legal framework of what ICE can or not do.
- Board Chair stated we need to let our staff and teachers know what is acceptable and not acceptable. We need to inform teachers.
- Board member asked if we should talk to our students about this situation and if they have any worries.
 - Co-CEO stated KBMS principal is reviewing a strategy with the school counselor about a plan to speak to students and families about the topic.

V. Closing Items

A. Approve Minutes

Li'Esha Garcia made a motion to approve the minutes from December Board Meeting on 12-11-24.

Kim Ramos seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

B. Adjourn Meeting

Amador Centeno made a motion to adjourn meeting.

Li'Esha Garcia seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Gutierrez