



Amber Charter School January Board Minutes January 10, 2024

MEETING CHAIR:

Dr. John Gutierrez

MEETING SCRIBE:

Mercedes Minaya

MEETING LOCATION: Kingsbridge Elementary, 3120 Corlear Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Amador Centeno, Tim Day, Robyn Epps, Li'Esha Garcia, Dr. Miguelina German, Dr. John Gutierrez, Soledad Hiciano, Lindsay Marino Long, Luina Muñoz-BlueSpruce, Brad Olsen, Kim Ramos

Staff: Veronica Almedina, Rose Castillo, Sashemani Elliott, Christine Ganey, Kirsys Gomez, Emily Griffin, Mercedes Minaya

Absent: Khiera Peña

Call to Order

Dr. John Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 6:12 pm

I. Check-In

II. Co-CEO Report - Reported by Co-CEOs

- Co-CEO reported that the board chair signed the Kingsbridge charter revision to add at-risk preference to our admission policy. CSI approved it.
- Co-CEO shared the New York State Board of Regents' proposed special education funding formula changes. To eliminate the program levels and use a new calculation based on the selected foundation aid per pupil.
- Removing the 60%+ category will impact the funding we receive for our ICT services.
- We are joining the NYCSA in advocating against this proposed revision in January.
- There have been some facility concerns at Inwood, specifically concerns surrounding the roof.
- Engineers have assessed the areas and working on a permit for a scaffold to go up in the front of the building.

- At Inwood, we installed an ADA-compliant chair lift, as the ramp in the back is closed due to the construction next door.
- Considering installing one at EH for the future as the cost wasn't high.
- At East Harlem, Phase 1 of the stairs project will commence during the February break while staff are not onsite.

III. Education Committee Update

- Co-CEO and MDA reported on the priorities achieved for the Academic Strategic Plan for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Leveraging the CPO and MDA to work with the coaches in their professional development.
- Trustee asked about the Regents exams for middle schoolers to be prepared for when they get to high school.
- Teachers need to be intentional with their pacing calendar with their individual planning.
- Have done instructional town hall meetings to get feedback from the teachers.
- Academic Intervention Services for small groups of students to close the gaps on what they need help with for loss of instruction.
- Winter i-Ready is being administered this week. We will have the reports ready for the next board meeting.
- The intent to return form was sent out to staff. Ask staff about their preferences for teaching the same or a different grade and their interest in instructional or non-instructional roles.
- There was a trend where staff don't leave your classroom until June. Staff members are now leaving at any time of the year.
- Getting ready for mid-year meetings.
- Early admission for catholic high school students go live. 15 students applied for catholic high schools.

IV. Development Committee Update

- The Development Chair reported that we are \$26,000 short of the board goal.
- Need to push on how we can raise more money during the spring fundraiser and get partnership opportunities.
- Fundraiser ideas to do something jointly with the Amber Education fund in the spring with Luis's new book release.
- Do another Spring mocktail secret garden fundraiser event similar to last year. Raised a total of \$14,000 at that event.
- A trustee can share a space on 42nd and Madison.
- Present a silent video at the venue, and invite the choir from the school. Decorate the place to reflect Amber.
- Invite anyone who helps us with grants.

- Form a joint planning committee with the fund to celebrate the 25th anniversary. This would require a sit-down event during Sprint or Fall in 2025.

V. Board Chair Report

- Next month's meeting will be Thursday, February 15th.
- The Board Chair noted that teachers are motivated by different factors. Most of our teachers want to stay at Amber.

VI. Motion to approve the December 2023 meeting minutes

- Move: Kim Ramos
- Second: Li'Esha
- Aye: All
- Nay: None
- Abstain: None

VII. Motion to adjourn the meeting

- Move: Soledad Hiciano
- Second: Kim Ramos
- Aye: All
- Nay: None
- Abstain: None

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm