



**Amber Charter School
April Board Minutes
April 17, 2024**

MEETING CHAIR:

Dr. John Gutierrez

MEETING SCRIBE:

Clarisse Alvarado

MEETING LOCATION: Inwood Elementary, 532 W 215th St, New York, NY 10034

ATTENDANCE:

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

Staff: Veronica Almedina, Clarisse Alvarado, Sashemani Elliott, Christine Ganey, Kirsys Gomez, Emily Griffin

Absent: Tim Day, Soledad Hiciano, Khiera Peña

Call to Order

Amador called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm

I. STEAM Presentation

- Mr. Johnny presented a slideshow presentation of current projects.
- Three 7th-grade Amber students showcased their projects, which incorporate math, technology, and science. They stated that it took them six months to complete.
- The board discussed how we can introduce it to elementary schools.

II. Development Committee- Spring Fundraiser

- The board chose a theme for the upcoming Spring Fundraiser on June 13th. They suggested fixing the language on the invite and adding the price of each ticket for sale.
- The development chair shared an activity called Wishing Well that will be played during the fundraiser and explained the logistics for the day.

III. Student Lottery Update

- CCO presented recent Student Lottery data:

- Lottery on April 3rd: 930 applications this year, a decline from last year's 1200 applications across the network.
- 798 offers were sent to families, and 162 on the waiting list.
- 342 families accepted across the network for the upcoming school year.
- East Harlem- As of 4/15, 91 families have accepted Amber for next year.
- Inwood- 65 families have accepted.
- Kingsbridge Elementary-138 families have accepted. More families choose KBES as their first choice because the location is easier.
- Kingsbridge Middle School- 48 families have accepted.
- CCO discussed how the admissions team is recruiting families. Families are discovering Amber through referrals, digital ads, community events, Inboud leads, and common applications.
 - CCO explained that her team is building a new system to bring families into our network. They visited 45 daycares, 14 community events, and family tours and contacted over 50 businesses and 90 digital daycares.
 - Our new strategy is customer service this year and adding a personal touch to developing relationships with future prospective families.
 - Family council- they help with activities around the school. We will find out if they can help pass out flyers and take materials at churches and local businesses.

IV. Co-CEO Report

- Student intent to return shows good data.
- Operations & Facilities
 - EH selected a vendor, and we have permits issued. Work will be completed over the summer.
 - IW facade- a structural engineer working on a work plan, bidding to get a contractor, and having weekly meetings with the team (JK Bloom).
 - Title Final Allocations—Title Final Allocations have been published, resulting in an allocation increase of approximately \$70K. The Finance Team will submit the amendments in May.
- Concluded ELA state testing-
 - MS Day 2 is the day they have to write the most, and more breaks are needed to reset. 5th—8th grade took the first computer-based testing, and 3rd and 4th grade took a paper-based test. Students still could highlight and use scrap paper. With computer-based testing, students can annotate on the screen. Eighth graders seemed the most confident and had the most positive mindset. All schools hosted prep rallies before testing.
 - There were extra chargers and no big problems with the technology being used.
- MDA shared that she proctored for the MS/KB elementary school.

- She noticed the exams had many different genres, including poetry, nonfiction, and diagrams. She highlighted how the mock tests, debrief days, and reteach lessons helped students prepare for this test. She stated that preparation made the testing days flow better with minimal issues.
- The board asked if we could compare the test from the paper last year to this year's test to see if there are any trends.
- Family-teacher conferences have been concluded.
- Network-wide Community Day—Students had to return to school due to the earthquake, but some were able to distribute care packages to different places in their neighborhoods. We had to reschedule events due to the earthquake.
- Save the date—the 8th-grade Graduation is scheduled for June 25th at 9:30 a.m. Invites will be shared soon.
- Two of our students made it to the Debate Championship.
- 2-month Art program- Create poetry to describe primary artifacts.

V. Board Chair Report

- August Board Retreat
 - 1-day Event this year- Friday, August 2nd at South Street Seaport; close the day with a board dinner.
 - Attendance will be Senior Amber Staff and Board.
- **Motion to approve the renewal of Li'Esha's term**
 - Move: Dr. Miguelina
 - Second: Amador
 - Aye: All
 - Nay: None
 - Abstain: None

VI. Motion to Approve March Board Minutes

- Move: Amador
- Second: Lindsay
- Aye: All
- Nay: None
- Abstain: Dr. Miguelina

VII. Motion to adjourn the meeting

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 PM