

Board of Trustees Meeting  
Tuesday, February 23, 2016  
Our World Neighborhood Charter School  
Elementary School  
36-12 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Astoria, NY 11106  
7:00 pm

**The Trustees present were:**

Jeanette Betancourt, President  
Melissa Chin, Vice President  
Charles Gaudagnolo, Treasurer  
Maura Fitzgerald, Secretary  
Olubunmi Emigli  
Sarah Espanol

**Also present were:**

Brian Ferguson, Executive Director  
LaToiya Revell, Vice Principal  
Mark Crusante, Director of Development  
Tabitha Daye, Elementary School Secretary  
Lucille Ranchor, Admissions Coordinator  
Yvette Strachan, Executive Assistant  
Anna Evenhouse, PTO Co-Chair

Jeanette Betancourt, President of OWNCS Board of Trustees, chaired the meeting.

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***Board Business***

***Jeanette Betancourt***

Ms. Betancourt noted that the next Strategic Planning meeting was postponed due to the revised replication application schedule, and that we are now seeking a Saturday in May. The attendees agreed to check availability for Saturday, May 21. She also said she would aim to schedule interviews with potential board candidates in March.

***Development Committee***

***Jeanette Betancourt and Mark Crusante***

Ms. Betancourt and Mr. Crusante reported on progress towards submitting our Letter of Intent to replicate by February 29. The application will be for a K-5 school, with a request to start with a K-2 cohort the first year. They informed us that we should expect a response and possible Request to Submit by mid-March.

Mr. Crusante also provided an update on outreach activities in the target district including community meetings at libraries, an online survey, letters of introduction to childcare providers, mailings to the general public, and meetings with local politicians. He also

stated that OWN has already requested a meeting with the EDC to ask about real estate options in the district.

### ***Education Committee***

#### ***Melissa Chin***

Ms. Chin reported on the committee's monthly meeting which focused on use of technology in the classroom at OWN. Their discussions included a review of our investment in hardware and software, utilization patterns, new hardware options, the projects already developed by teachers, and supporting teachers to optimize use of technology, all with an eye to connecting the use of technology to our core mission and strategizing for the future. She encouraged the Board to review the many samples of current projects featured on the school website.

### ***Finance & Administration Committee***

#### ***Charles Guadagnolo***

Mr. Guadagnolo explained the work he is doing with the Business Office and our consultant to tweak the financial models for the Lifetime Building project. He focused in particular on assumptions related to enrollment, and the steps we will need to take to keep our numbers up.

He informed the Board that the Committee still needed to do a formal review of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter financials, but that an initial review shows that a projected \$290K loss was lowered to \$65K due primarily to the cutover to a PEO and the change in health insurance costs.

In addition, Mr. Ferguson reported that the Business Office is busy with the A133 audit and that they have a first draft of the 990 to circulate to the Board. They already accommodated a cutover to a new payroll system when the school moved to the PEO, and they are about to host their first meeting with staff to introduce the new 401(k) plan.

### ***Director's Report***

#### ***Brian Ferguson***

Mr. Ferguson informed the Board of the approval of a new "weighted" lottery to prioritize students at risk. The mechanism to do this – since we are not allowed to ask families for personal information that indicates ELL, economic or SPED status when they register for the lottery – is unclear, but the state has said it will provide a mechanism. Mr. Ferguson will continue to follow the latest developments and to provide updates to the Board to inform future decision making.

***PTO***

***Anna Evenhouse***

Ms. Evenhouse informed the Board that Spirit Week is in progress and that the schedules have been aligned at the Elementary and Middle schools. She also announced that an 8-week series of Free Art Saturdays are due to re-launch next week with the support of student volunteers. The PTO has been able to provide two parents to support each Open House this year, and is also updating its website.

Respectfully submitted by:

Maura Fitzgerald, Secretary, OWNCS Board of Trustees