Amber Charter School
Board Minutes
April 10, 2019

MEETING CHAIR:
Soledad Hiciano

MEETING SCRIBE:
Natalie Chaparro

MEETING LOCATION:
Amber Charter School, East Harlem, 220 East 106th Street, New York, NY, 10029

ATTENDANCE:
Board: Amador Centeno, Soledad Hiciano, Elena Goldberg Velasquez, Beatriz Gonzalez, Shawnte Lorick, Jenna Pantel, Brian Quillin, Kelly Combs,
Absent: Frank Aldridge, John Gutierrez, Jazmine Landa, Brad Olsen, and Miguelina German
Staff: Vasthi Acosta, Veronica Almedina, Sashemani Elliott, Christine Ganey, Kirsys Gomez, Heidi Hamilton, Elizabeth Pitula, Karen Drezner, Darpan Patel, Natalie Chaparro

I. Call to Order
Ms. Hiciano called the meeting to order at 6:26 pm.

II. Check In
Board Members checked in.

III. Motion to Approve March 13 Board Minutes
Move: Jenna Pantel
Second: Elena Goldberg Velazquez
Aye: All
Nay: None
Abstain: Kelly Combs

IV. Motion to Approve March 25 Board Minutes
Move: Jenna Pantel
Second: Amador Centeno
Aye: All
Nay: None
Abstain: Vasthi Acosta, Kelly Combs and Brian Quillin

V. Analysis & Approval of Assessments for Renewal Application
   ● Dr. Acosta: the education committee and the instructional leadership did an analysis of all the assessments that the schools use. Upon review there are two recommendations:
Eliminate Terra Nova from our accountability plan. We checked with our authorizer, SUNY CSI, who said Amber did not need this assessment because we are not a brand new school.

Replace MAP assessments with iReady which was piloted in Kingsbridge this year. iReady provides critical information to the teachers to support how they plan for differentiation. It is aligned with the state standards and nationally normed. East Harlem would benefit from this program.

Ms. Pantel stated it is not reducing testing for students but gaining back instructional time that was given to preparation for the Terra Nova.

VI. Motion to remove Terra Nova from Accountability Plan.
   - Move: Jenna Patel
   - Second: Brian Quillin
   - Aye: All
   - Nay: None
   - Abstain: None.

VII. Introduction of new SST members
   - Dr. Acosta introduced new SST members:
     - Karen Drezner, Senior Strategy Advisor
     - Natalie Chaparro, Executive Assistant

VIII. Ms. Christine Ganey to present Lottery/Application Stats for Both Schools:
   - Ms. Ganey reported the results of the lottery held on April 3rd and the total number of applications received per school as well as the waitlist.

IX. Dr. Acosta reported on participation of a workshop at Center for professional Research on leadership [CPRL] at Columbia Law School:
   - Key SST members attended the workshop with a focus on planning for student recruitment. There is a 2nd day in May where Amber will get constructive feedback on the strategy designed.

X. Dr. Acosta reported on the Latino Charter Leaders Roundtable Board Trustee Dinner.
   - She thanked Mr. Centeno, Ms. Hiciano and Mr. Gutierrez for their support of the dinner by attending. It was a successful dinner.

XI. ACS KB Principal Report Review
   - 2nd grade swim program has begun and is being embraced with positive results from students and staff.
   - Parent/Teacher conference we had 99% of parents that met in March.
   - New York State Testing has begun.
   - Visit from Latin Grammy Music Education Coalition, Mr. Quillin’s music room was showcased and gave an amazing performance during the tour.

XII. ACS EH Principal Report Review
   - New York State Testing day 1 and day 2 went well.
Basketball team finished 2nd in championship.
SUNY renewal visit scheduled for end of May.
Middle school fair in May for 3rd and 4th grade parents to meet with top schools.

XIII. UFT Collective Bargaining Agreement Update
- Dr. Acosta stated that our lawyer is reviewing the CBA and the faculty voted to ratify the contract.

XIV. Sip and Bid Fundraiser Event
- Ms. Hiciano reminded the trustees of the upcoming fundraiser:
  - Date: May 9th at 6:30pm, at WineO 8 E. 36th Street, 3rd Floor, $75 Tix

XV. Charter School growth Fund Update
- Dr. Acosta reported that Amber has applied for funds from the Charter School growth fund. There were 50 applicants and only visiting 20 are semi-finalists. They are visiting both Amber schools and interviewing SST members, trustees and teachers.
- CSGF visit is: May 22nd @ 8:30 they will be meeting with Board Trustees.

XVI. Amber EH Renewal Visit
- Amber EH renewal visit from SUNY CSI has been pushed up earlier. It is scheduled for May 28-29. The interview with the Trustees will be on May 29th @ 5:30 pm in Dr. Acosta’s office.

XVII. Farewell to Trustee Beatriz Gonzalez
- Ms. Hiciano announced the resignation of Ms. Beatriz Gonzalez from the board. She thanked her for her service and commitment to Amber.

XVIII. Upcoming Meeting Dates:
- May 8th @ 6pm in Amber East Harlem

XIX. Board Meeting Adjournment
- Ms. Hiciano called for the adjournment of the meeting after asking if there was any other new business. Vote to adjourn the meeting:
  - Move: Jenna Patel
  - Second: Elena Goldberg Velazquez
  - Aye: All
  - Nay: None
  - Abstain: None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.