

**CITY ON A HILL CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 6, 2008**

At City on a Hill Charter Public School, 58 Circuit St, Roxbury

Present: Joseph Cali, Bobbie Knable, Stephen Kraus, Erica Jamison-Brown, David Lane, Robert Mazzearella, Kevin Mohan, Lee Delaney, Ginger Parker

Absent: Rukia Ali, Michael Grossman, Maurice Wright, Ryan Thorton

Chairman Mazzearella called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Board Update and Votes

Moved to approve the minutes for the meeting held May 1; seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Mazzearella announced the proposal of Ginger Parker for Board membership and term renewals of Michael Grossman, Bobbie Knable, David Lane, Lee Delaney, and Maurice Wright. Moved that the Board approve the new member and the term renewal; seconded and carried unanimously.

Real Estate Report

Bob White gave a tour of the new facility.

Two classrooms were added along with the forum space, executive offices and bathroom facilities.

David Lane announced that the construction is a couple of months ahead of schedule and on budget. The space could open as early as November, depending on the Certificate of Occupancy from the City. With the \$150K grant from the Barr Foundation, it may be possible to purchase many items from the wish list for the forum and the property.

Erica Jamison exhibited the new furniture which can be used for dining, testing and forum style seating, saving money and storage space.

School Report

Ms. Jamison presented the school report.

Enrollment

At the October 1 benchmark, City on a Hill's total enrollment is 282. After losing a higher than expected number of students who were to be retained in grade, 14 new freshmen were enrolled after Freshmen Academy.

MCAS

The percentage of students scoring proficient and advanced in ELA and science scores continue to rise, although math has gone down from last year. The percentage of students passing on the first attempt remains above 90%, but has decreased from last year's scores (100%) in both math and ELA.

It is a larger cohort from 2007 to 2008 resulting in more students passing and more students qualifying for the Adams Scholarship. On average, City on a Hill students are outperforming not only their demographics, but the city and state students as well.

It is expected that the tutorial program will have a positive effect on the MCAS scores.

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

For the first time since 2003, City on a Hill did not earn AYP. There are two reasons: the decrease in students receiving proficient + advanced scores on the math MCAS and the lower than required aggregate 4-year graduation rate.

Finances

Mr. Cali presented the Finance Report.

As of the close of August 2008, City on a Hill is on budget. The decrease in expenses is a result of some expenses being applied in September rather than August as expected.

Mr. Mazzarella stated that although the financial crisis may not affect City on a Hill this year, we must be prepared to be affected next year.

Ms. Knable pointed out that the Mass Charter Public School Association has stated that cuts may come in the 4th quarter payment for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

Bridge Loan Covenants

There are three proposed/revised Lewis Family Foundation Goals concerning the Board of Trustees:

- Board meetings will average 80% attendance.
- 100% of Board members will contribute financially to the school, representing at least \$10,000 of the annual appeal and \$10,000 of the gala.
- The Board will continue to hold annual retreats. These retreats for the duration of the grant will be held at Pinnacle Leadership Center in Kensington, NH.

The Board was concerned that the first goal was not realistic, and should be decreased to an average of 70% attendance. Moved that the Board accept the goals with the change from 80% to 70% attendance at board meetings; seconded and carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.