



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 28, 2009**

- Trustees Present:** F. George Jacome; Robert F. Collins; Dr. Charles Khoury; Teresa Nelson; Beverly Pavao; Brenda Reback; Peter A. Saulino, Esq.; James A. Wallace, Jr.; Jonathan Taradash, (BOT Staff Intern)
- Trustees Absent:** Gerald Audet (excused); Fernando Garcia (excused); Jeffrey T. Karam (excused)
- Student Representative:** Alexa Caetano, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President (excused)
- Staff Present:** Fernando M. Goulart, Executive Director; Thomas Paul, Director of Business; Henrique M.F. Madeira, Principal – Upper School; Kerry S. Kennedy, Principal – Lower School; Dr. Diane Desrosiers, Student Services Director; Mathieu Pilotte, Family Learning Center Director
- Community Input:** None
- Call to Order:** Mr. Jacome officially called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.
- Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Jacome presented the Minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting of November 19, 2008, emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board members. A motion was made by Atty. Saulino to dispense with the reading of the Minutes and to accept the Minutes as presented; seconded by Mr. Collins, and **APPROVED** unanimously.
- Correspondence:** None
- Staff Presentations:** None
- Student Representative Presentation:** None
- Financial Report:** A motion was made by Mr. Collins to waive the reading of the Financial Report, seconded by Atty. Saulino and **APPROVED** unanimously. A copy of the Financial Report was emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board members and is on file in the Office of the Board of Trustees.
- Committee Reports:**
- Development Committee:**  
No report.
- Education Committee:**  
No report.

**Facilities Committee:**

No report.

**Finance Committee:**

No report.

**Nominating Committee:**

Mr. Jacome stated that as of November 2008, the Board of Trustees has been without a Secretary due to Dr. Curry's term expiring. As such, Mr. Jacome opened up nominations for Secretary.

A motion was made by Mrs. Pavao to nominate Mr. James Wallace as Secretary to the Board of Trustees, seconded by Atty. Saulino and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Jacome stated that since no further nominations had been made, the nomination process had been closed.

A second motion was made by Mrs. Pavao to appoint Mr. James Wallace as Secretary to the Board of Trustees, seconded by Atty. Saulino and **APPROVED** unanimously.

**Personnel Committee:**

No report.

***Old Business:*** No report.

***New Business:*** Mr. Goulart presented the addition of the non-discrimination clause as section 3.7 to the By-Laws. It reads, "*In the employment of persons, in the enrollment of students, membership on the Board of Trustees and the conduct of its programs, and in the administration of public assemblies, performances, exhibits and events, Atlantis will not discriminate on the basis of age, sex, sexual orientation, race, national origin, ancestry, religion, marital status, or non-disqualifying handicap or mental condition.*"

A motion was made by Mr. Collins to accept the addition of Section 3.7 Non Discrimination to the By-Laws as read above, seconded by Atty. Saulino and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Jacome provided the board with some background information as to the search process for Executive Director. Mr. Jacome stated that the two final candidates came from a group of about twelve candidates that was whittled down from an original 300 contacted by a private search firm used at the start of the process. From that group, Mr. Jacome stated that five were extensively interviewed by the search committee with numerous formal and casual meetings. Three emerged from those talks, and the final two candidates are being presented to the full board.

The first candidate for the position of Executive Director at Atlantis Charter School is Mr. Robert Beatty, Director of Trailblazers Academy, a public charter school in Stamford, CT. Mr. Beatty has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Wesleyan University in Middletown, CT.

When asked what his educational philosophy was, Mr. Beatty responds that "there are very few excuses why we shouldn't be providing the best education possible in this country.

When asked the forces of his leadership philosophy, Mr. Beatty, who has been at Trailblazers Academy for the past eight years, said, "finding and supporting the best people and just letting them do their jobs...trusting people to make professional decisions."

Addressing his strength as a school head, Mr. Beatty stated, "communication is important. You need a comprehensive communication plan for the entire staff."

When asked why he wanted to leave his current job, Mr. Beatty responded, “I see a unique and very attractive opportunity here in Fall River.”

Mr. Beatty also told the board that parents are a “critical” part of the education process. “It has to be a three-way partnership: the school, the students and the parents.”

Questioned how he could cope with the coming from a school of 150 to 200 students to one with an enrollment of about 700, Mr. Beatty answered, “Good management practices.”

The second candidate is David Brown, Principal of the Harbor School in Dorchester, MA.

Told that the parents are very important at Atlantis Charter School, Mr. Brown was asked his idea to help build parent capacity to help their children. Mr. Brown responded “we educate only half the child, the other half is at home.”

Mr. Brown added that at the Harbor pilot school, “we do parent nights to help them with math terms and give them a bag of tools to take home. That helps them so they can support their children.”

Mr. Brown also stated that he worked with the math and science teams to motivate teachers and students in preparing for the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System test.

Asked how he accommodates all teachers and students, Mr. Brown stated he believes that an executive’s job is to “empower people to take leadership roles – give them the power to make decisions.”

Calling Atlantis a “phenomenal place,” Mr. Brown said he wanted to be part of the “passion” that people have for the school.

Allowed to pose questions of his own to the board, Mr. Brown asked what was the financial forecast for Atlantis? Mr. Robert Collins, Treasurer, stated, “We’re in good financial condition. However, given the volatility of the markets, we have to be prepared for the unexpected. Right now, we’re pretty good.”

At the conclusion of both interviews, Mr. Jacome stated, “I believe one of these two individuals is the right fit for the school. We were for someone who personified the spirit and philosophy of Atlantis.”

Mr. Jacome stated that it was the recommendation of the search committee to offer the opportunity to enter into contract negotiations for the position of Executive Director to Mr. Robert Beatty.

During discussion following the interviews, Mr. Wallace asked the members of the search committee the reasons they recommended Mr. Beatty. Mr. Wallace was concerned from an educational standpoint that Mr. Beatty only possesses a bachelor’s degree while the recommended requirement established for the position included an advanced degree in education, Academic Administration, and/or a Master’s degree in Business Administration (MBA).

After much discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Collins to offer the opportunity to enter into contract negotiations for the position of Executive Director to Mr. Robert Beatty, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

If Mr. Robert Beatty accepts the offer to enter into contract negotiations and the Board in turn accepts the final contract, Mr. Beatty will replace Mr. Fernando Goulart, who will officially leave his position on July 31, 2009.

*Adjournment:* At 9:44 PM, a motion was made by Mrs. Pavao to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

*Next Meeting:* The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, January 28, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Cafeteria of the Upper School located at 37 Park Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. James A. Wallace, Jr.  
Secretary