



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 27, 2010**

- Trustees Present:** F. George Jacome; Matthew Burke, Jr., Esq.; Robert F. Collins; Jeffrey T. Karam; Teresa Nelson; Beverly Pavao; Peter A. Saulino, Esq.; James A. Wallace, Jr.; Jonathan Taradash; Courtney Franco (BOT Staff Intern)
- Trustees Absent:** None
- Support Staff Present:** Robert L. Beatty, Executive Director; Henrique M.F. Madeira, Principal – Upper School; Kerry Kennedy – Lower School Principal; Kristi Oliveira, Human Resources Director; Diane Desrosiers, Student Services Director; Mathieu Pilotte, FLC Director
- Student Representative:** Victoria Farinha, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President
- Community Input:** None
- Call to Order:** Mr. Jacome officially called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Mr. Jacome welcomed Ms. Courtney Franco to the board.
- Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Jacome presented the Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting of November 18, 2009, emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board Members.
- A motion was made by Mr. Collins to amend the minutes as follows under the Finance Committee section, last two paragraphs:
- “Mr. Collins further stated that currently the Board has \$3.8 million dollars in designated funds. Mr. Collins would like to entertain a motion to allocate \$1,040,000 in funds at Citizens Union Savings Bank for building improvements.”
- “A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to allocate \$1,040,000 in Citizens Union Savings Bank account to be designated for building improvements, seconded by Mr. Karam and **APPROVED** unanimously.”
- Seconded by Atty. Saulino, and **APPROVED** unanimously.
- Correspondence:** Mr. Jacome read a thank you note from Mrs. Christine Radway.
- Staff Presentations:** Dr. Desrosiers announced that seven leadership positions had been hired to fulfill the ARRA proposals that were submitted and accepted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- Mrs. Dawn Tavares and Ms. Anne-Marie Peck provided a brief overview of the **Parent Partner Program**. The Parent Partner Program provides home visits to support families in

transferring what's been learned in class to the home environment. These visits are individualized for each family – parents have an active role in planning the visit in advance with the Parent Partner. Parent Partners home visits provide the opportunity for families to learn how their interactions reinforce the home as the child's first and most important educational environment. Home visits with Parent Partners are an extension of classroom learning, and enhance the effectiveness of the ACS Home and School Involvement Compact.

Mr. Sunil Jagannath presented the **Teachers as Mentors Program**. Mr. Jagannath explained the vision of the Teachers as Mentors program is to link classroom learning and the “real world” by providing students with opportunities outside of school to observe dedicated professionals working in a field of interest, with guidance and direction from an Atlantis Charter School teacher.

Mrs. Michelle Carney presented the **Model Literacy Program**. The Model Literacy Program is designed to provide support to Special Education Teachers and staff through the use of professional development training using reading strategies. Mrs. Carney stated that she is excited to expand the program with the teachers at the Lower School.

Mrs. Jessica Lee presented the **MCAS Alternate Assessment**. MCAS-Alt is a portfolio based assessment tool that can be used to assess students that are difficult to assess on the Standard MCAS test even with accommodations.

Ms. Corrie Cabral presented the **Co-Teacher: Regular and Special Education Teacher Collaboration Project**. This program was created in order to increase the time for collaboration between regular education and special education. Teachers will be supported in implementing a co-teaching model approach.

Dr. Desrosiers stated that Mrs. Emily Uon will be working with Ms. Corrie Cabral but was unable to attend the meeting tonight. Dr. Desrosiers further stated that stimulus funds will provide Atlantis with \$360,000 over a two-year period.

***Financial Report:***

Mr. Collins presented the Financial Report which 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:**

Mr. Beatty stated that the golf tournament will be held on Monday, August 2, 2010. Mr. Beatty further stated that if anyone is interested in chairing the golf tournament to please contact Vivian Carreiro.

**Education Committee:**

Mr. Wallace reported that the Education Committee had met prior to the board meeting and had reviewed the draft of the Accountability Plan. Mr. Wallace stated that the Education Committee will finalize the Accountability Plan at their next meeting. They will then forward it to the state for suggestions, and present it to the Board at the April meeting.

Mr. Wallace stated that the Strategic Plan will require quite a bit of revisions to reflect where the school will be in 2015.

**Facilities Committee:**

No report.

**Finance Committee:**

Mr. Collins stated that the Finance Committee will keep a close eye on the Education Reform legislation, particularly with the verbiage of cash reserves Atlantis is allowed to have.

**Nominating Committee:**

No report.

**Personnel Committee:**

No report.

***Old Business:*** Mr. Beatty stated that the students of ACS got a look into the court system from a lawyer's perspective. Defense attorney Dana Sargent and Bristol County assistant district attorney Lesley Leahy spoke to the class about the Bill of Rights, the differences between district and superior courts, grand juries and civil trials. Mr. Beatty stated that this would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Thomas Kaminski, ISS Supervisor.

Mr. Beatty stated that Atlantis held its first Spelling Bee today. Mr. Beatty thanked Mr. Mathieu Pilotte, Mrs. Diane Boutin, Mrs. Kelly Morra and Mrs. Molly Penney for all their hard work. The top ten spellers will compete with students from the New Bedford Global Learning Charter School on February 9, 2010 at 9:30 AM.

***New Business:*** Mr. Jacome stated that the early bird registration for the National Charter School conference expires on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Therefore, if any Board members are interested in attending, please let me know by the end of the meeting so that Vivian Carreiro can make the reservations.

Mr. Beatty discussed the opportunity to take on a good neighbor initiative by sponsoring a \$20,000 grant to assist Alma del Mar, a proposed New Bedford Charter School, through the beginning stages of the application process. William Gardner, representative from Alma del Mar, stated that a group of individuals started working on this project two years ago. The prospectus is due to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education this summer. The application is due this November. Alma del Mar will be notified of their acceptance in early 2011. The idea is to have a K-8 school starting with first grades K – 1 and then adding on each year.

A motion was made by Ms. Nelson to sponsor the \$20,000 grant, seconded by Atty. Saulino, and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Beatty stated that Accounting Management Solutions has helped Atlantis over the last month and he will be speaking to them to discuss an extension in their services.

Mr. Beatty reported that Atlantis Charter School had signed a Memorandum of Understanding with regards to the Race to the Top funds. Mr. Beatty stated that 2/3 of eligible schools signed on, indicating more than a 15% increase in entitlement grants for approved schools.

***Adjournment:*** At 8:15 PM, a motion was made by Mr. Wallace to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

***Next Meeting:*** The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, February 24, 2010 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