



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MEETING MINUTES  
November 18, 2009**

- Trustees Present:** F. George Jacome; Matthew Burke, Jr., Esq.; Robert F. Collins; Jeffrey T. Karam; Teresa Nelson; Beverly Pavao; Brenda Reback; Peter A. Saulino, Esq.; James A. Wallace, Jr.; Jonathan Taradash
- Trustees Absent:** Fernando Garcia (excused); Dr. Charles Khoury (excused);
- 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; Thomas Paul, Business Manager;
- 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 7:07 p.m.
- Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Jacome presented the Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting of October 28, 2009, emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board Members.
- A motion was made by Mr. Collins to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Atty. Saulino, and **APPROVED** unanimously.
- Correspondence:** None
- Staff Presentations:** 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:**  
Mr. Wallace reported that the Education Committee had met prior to the board meeting and had discussed the accountability plan as well as the Strategic Plan. Mr. Wallace stated that a draft of the Accountability Plan will be prepared for the January Education Committee meeting.

Mr. Wallace stated that the Strategic Plan will require quite a bit of revisions to reflect where the school will be in 2015. Mr. Wallace reported that all members of the Education Committee were given copies of the Strategic Plan and were asked to bring forth suggestions at the next meeting.

**Facilities Committee:**

No report.

**Finance Committee:**

A presentation was made by Colleen Murphy of Daniel Dennis & Company, LLP regarding the school's 2009 audit, a copy of which is on file in the office of the Board of Trustees. The Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the audit for submission to the state.

A motion was made by Atty. Saulino to approve the audit as presented, seconded by Mr. Wallace and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Jacome thanked the administration as well as Mr. Paul for all of their hard work in having a clean audit.

Mr. Collins reported that Atlantis is in good shape financially, primarily because of our increased enrollment.

Mr. Collins further stated that because of the various support endeavors that Atlantis has received from Rockland Trust, he would like to entertain a motion to open an account at Rockland Trust.

A motion was made by Ms. Nelson to open an Atlantis Charter School account at Rockland Trust, seconded by Atty. Saulino and **APPROVED** unanimously.

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.

**Nominating Committee:**

Ms. Nelson stated that the Nominating Committee had met with Ms. Courtney Franco, current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher at Atlantis Charter School, and interviewed her for the Board of Trustees staff intern position.

A motion was made by Atty. Saulino to appoint Ms. Franco to the Board of Trustees Staff Intern position, seconded by Mrs. Reback and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Ms. Nelson reported that Atty. Saulino's first term will expire at the end of November. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to appoint Atty. Saulino to a second three-year term, seconded by Mrs. Reback and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Ms. Nelson reported that Mr. Karam's first term will expire at the end of November. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to appoint Mr. Karam to a second three year term, seconded by Mrs. Reback and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Jacome made a motion to re-appoint Atty. Saulino as Board Vice-President, seconded by Ms. Nelson, and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Jacome stated that this was the last board meeting for Mrs. Brenda Reback and on behalf of the full board; Mr. Jacome thanked Mrs. Reback for her time and commitment to the Board. Mrs. Reback stated that it had been an enlightening experience and wishes Ms. Courtney Franco the best. Mr. Jacome further stated that Mrs. Reback will remain active on the Nominating and Education Committees.

**Personnel Committee:**

No report.

***Old Business:***

Mr. Beatty stated that according to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, the charter renewal vote had been pushed from the November board meeting to the December 15 board meeting.

Mr. Beatty stated that two individuals had been hired under the ARRA grants, the MCAS-Alt position and the teacher mentor for community service. Both of these positions have been filled internally.

Mr. Beatty stated that a staff survey consisting of big picture goals would be disseminated to all staff members to report on at the end of the first trimester.

Mr. Beatty reported that Atlantis Charter School was able to submit an application for the Southcoast Compact grant just under the wire. To date, we are still waiting to hear if we have been approved.

Mrs. Pavao asked whether or not the DESE had made any mention to absenteeism due to the H1N1 virus and how that will affect the MCAS administration. Mr. Beatty stated that the DESE had not made any mention with relation to the MCAS administration but that they had stated for schools to be cognizant of the fact that some physicians are not seeing patients and rather diagnosing them over the phone. Mr. Beatty stated that the attendance issue seems to be improving.

Mr. Jacome stated that he had received a resignation letter from Dr. Charles Khoury and that Dr. Khoury was very grateful for having the opportunity to serve on the Board.

Mr. Jacome stated that with respect to Mr. Fernando Garcia, according to our current by-laws, the process has not been followed due to not having proper notification. Mr. Jacome will proceed with proper notification and will have an update at the next Board meeting.

***New Business:***

Mr. Beatty reported on the education reform bill. The exciting news is that the statewide charter caps have been lifted and our funding protected for now. Charters are now able to form Educational Collaboratives among themselves, or with districts. Charters have first crack at vacant district school buildings. Charters not have access to district lists to mail info to prospective families (through third party mail house). However, there are a number of new restrictions and mandates on the cap raise and on existing charter schools included in the

Senate bill that will hopefully be addressed.

These include:

1. New rules on filling charter vacancies (backfilling). Under the Senate bill charters have to fill vacancies in the grade in which they occur except in the highest grade in your school and 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
2. New rules preventing charters from accepting students outside their declared sending districts without an amendment of their charter from the BESE.
3. While the bill lifts all statewide caps on charters and doubles the district cap to 18% in the lowest 10% performing districts, new rules require all new charter applicants in lowest performing districts to be “proven providers” thus severely limiting charter growth in these districts.
4. New demographic recruitment and retention mandates and accountability requirements.
5. New reporting requirements and limits charter reserve accounts to 20% of operating budget excluding facilities savings accounts, bank reserve requirement and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter payments.

These issues will hopefully be resolved by January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Beatty stated that all Board members had received via email as well as hard copy a flyer to Atlantis Charter School’s Holiday party scheduled for Friday, December 11, 2009 at Jacky’s Galaxie in Bristol, RI. Mr. Beatty personally invited all the Board members and asked them to submit their form to Vivian Carreiro or simply send her an email to let her know of their intentions.

Mrs. Beverly Pavao distributed *Hands Across Fall River, A History Resource Book* to all Board members. Mrs. Pavao stated that the Fall River Public Schools received a Community Service-Learning (CSL) Grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for 2008-2009. The intent of the CSL Grant program is to promote learning through active participating in service-learning experiences.

**Adjournment:** At 7:57 PM, a motion was made by Atty. Saulino to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Collins and **APPROVED** unanimously.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on **Wednesday, January 27, 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