



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

- Trustees Present:** F. George Jacome; Robert F. Collins; Jeffrey T. Karam; Teresa Nelson; Beverly Pavao; Brenda Reback; Peter A. Saulino, Esq.; James A. Wallace, Jr.; Jonathan Taradash, (BOT Staff Intern)
- Trustees Absent:** Matthew Burke, Jr., Esq. (excused); 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; Cheryl Belknap, Curriculum Director; Kristin Welchman, School Adjustment Counselor
- Student Representative:** Victoria Farinha, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President; Eric Nemkovich, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class President; Lauren Bryant, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Vice President
- Community Input:** None
- Call to Order:** Mr. Jacome officially called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.
- Acceptance of Minutes:** Mr. Jacome presented the Minutes from the Board of Trustees Meeting of September 30, 2009, emailed in advance of this meeting to all Board Members.
- A motion was made by Atty. Saulino to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Ms. Nelson, and **APPROVED** unanimously.
- Correspondence:** Mr. Jacome read a thank you note from Mrs. Gray, First Grade Paraprofessional, thanking the Board for the plant that was sent to her for the passing of her husband.
- Staff Presentations:** Mr. Welchman presented the Student Government and stated that they have broken up into committees, a dance committee, school spirit committee, community involvement committee, and fundraising committee.
- Financial Report:** 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. Mr. Wallace stated that some revisions need to be made prior to the next school year.

Mr. Wallace stated that under the student academic performance goals, the wording for measuring NCE points needs to be revised.

Mr. Wallace further stated that the AYP section will remain the same.

Mr. Wallace stated that the rating of MCAS results is changing due to the growth module whereas students are rated year to year and not grade level to grade level.

Mr. Wallace further stated that the Education Committee will be looking at the Strategic Plan specifically relating to the Education section.

The next meeting of the Education Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 6:00 PM in the first floor conference room of Atlantis Charter School.

**Facilities Committee:**

No report.

**Finance Committee:**

Mr. Collins reported that Atlantis is in good shape financially, primarily because of our increased enrollment. Mr. Collins stated that the auditors will be presenting the audited financials at the November board meeting.

Mr. Collins further stated that because of the various support endeavors that Atlantis has received from Mechanics Cooperative Bank and St. Anne's Credit Union, he would like to entertain a motion to open accounts at both of the banks respectively.

A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to open an Atlantis Charter School account at Mechanics Cooperative Bank as well as St. Anne's Credit Union, seconded by Atty. Saulino and **APPROVED** unanimously.

**Nominating Committee:**

Ms. Nelson stated that Mr. Taradash's term as a Staff Board Intern had expired and that he is now eligible to become a full board member with voting privileges.

A motion was made by Mr. Karam to appoint Mr. Taradash as a regular Board member, seconded by Mrs. Reback, and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Ms. Nelson reported that her first term had expired. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to appoint Ms. Nelson to a second three-year term, seconded by Mrs. Reback and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Ms. Nelson reported that Mr. Jacome's first term had expired. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to appoint Mr. Jacome to a second three year term, seconded by Mrs. Reback and **APPROVED** unanimously.

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

Mr. Jacome stated that a letter had been sent to Mr. Garcia notifying him of the Board's decision to remove him from the Board due to his nonattendance at meetings. Mr. Jacome further stated that to date, he has not received a resignation letter from Dr. Khoury.

Mr. Jacome stated that if anyone had any names of interested individuals who would be an asset to Atlantis, to bring their names to Ms. Nelson.

**Personnel Committee:**

Atty. Saulino reported that the Personnel Committee had met on October 21<sup>st</sup> and had discussed four important items.

The first item was the revised vacation policy which was emailed to all board members prior to this board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Collins to accept the policy as revised, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

The second item was the revised bereavement policy which was emailed to all board members prior to this board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Collins to accept the policy as revised, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

The third item was the use of school property policy which was emailed to all board members prior to this board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Collins to accept the policy as presented, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

The Personnel Committee wrapped up their meeting by discussing the reallocation of sick time versus personal days. The thought is to move three sick days into the Personal Days Bank allowing full-time staff the flexibility of taking time off. Atty. Saulino stated that further discussion was going to take place at the next meeting.

***Old Business:***

Mr. Beatty provided updates on the stimulus money in regards to the Title I and IDEA programs. Below is a list of proposals that were submitted and approved:

1. Regular and Special Education Teacher Collaboration Project (IDEA)
2. Special Education Literacy Project (IDEA)
3. Mentors for Student Community Service Activity (IDEA)
4. Improved Capacity of General Educators Working with Students with Disabilities Project (IDEA)
5. Parent Partners Initiative (Title I)
6. Supplemental Education Services After School Coordinator and Tutors (Title I – SES)

Mr. Beatty stated that Mrs. Rahme is continuing to roll out the positive reinforcements.

***New Business:***

Mr. Beatty presented an amendment to the current school calendar which initially listed November 25, 2009 as the end of Trimester I to November 20, 2009 as the end of Trimester I. A motion was made by Mr. Wallace to accept the amendment to the calendar, seconded by Ms. Nelson and **APPROVED** unanimously.

Mr. Beatty reviewed the growth module that was released by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Mr. Beatty stated that the state looked at individual students

compared year to year with similar students of likewise patterns. The state defined three categories. Based on the statistics, Atlantis students showed consistent achievement and growth. The longer a student is enrolled at Atlantis the higher their scores.

Mr. Beatty discussed two competitive grants, Investing in Innovation Fund and Teacher Incentive Fund. Mr. Beatty stated that charter schools are uniquely positioned to take advantage of these competitive grants.

Ms. Nelson stated that the Southcoast Compact is offering \$250 to schools. Ms. Nelson will forward the information to Mr. Beatty, perhaps that money could be used to offset field trips.

Mr. Jacome reminded all Board members that the next Board meeting is on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November and not on the 24<sup>th</sup> because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Jacome thanked all the faculty and staff involved with StarBase Atlantis. Mr. Beatty stated that Mr. Pilotte found this wonderful opportunity funded by the defense department. Each program is tailored to the community group. The program heavily surrounds science and mathematics. Each of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade students spent one day a week for five weeks in the program and eventually built and flew rockets. The students also flew a simulated airplane.

Miss Victoria Farinha shared some concerns with the Board regarding uniform choices and lunches. Mr. Jacome stated that there is a process in which items be brought to the Board and asked Mr. Welchman to acquaint Miss Farinha with this process.

**Adjournment:** At 8:00 PM, a motion was made by Atty. Saulino to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Wallace 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