June Board Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School was held on June 23, 2020 at 5:00 pm.

Board Member Present:
- Anu Malipatil
- Shona Pinnock
- Julie Goran
- Josh Wolfe
- Sam Tweedy
- Nkonye Okoh
- Jennifer McArdle
- Leslie-Bernard Joseph

Guests Present:
- Ashley Weech
- Eldridge Gilbert
- K.C. Klegar
- Eric Green
- Ross Thomason
- Kevin Pesantez

Board Members Absent:
- Joe Herrera

Quorum Present: Yes

I. Minutes
Leslie-Bernard Joseph presented the board with May board meeting minutes for approval.

Voted: Julie Goran made a motion to approve the board meeting minutes for approval. Josh Wolfe seconded that motion and it was approved unanimously.

II. Schools Update
Mr. Joseph informed the Board that graduation would be celebrated tomorrow, Wednesday, June 24 and that scholars could come in-person for diploma pick-up the following Thursday and Friday. Mr. Joseph noted that this year’s valedictorian, Kadeshia Rose would be attending NYU in the fall.

Mr. Joseph spoke about CIP’s response to racial injustice over the past month, including communication to staff members, affinity groups, student town hall discussions, student work, explicit references to Black Lives Matter during the eight grade stepping up ceremony, a march attended by staff, and a Brooklyn News 12 appearance. Finally, Mr. Joseph presented the Board with CIP’s updated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement.

Mr. Joseph shared the overview of the school’s Back to School Blueprint framework for fall 2020. The blueprint was informed by research from a pro bono consulting engagement with McKinsey & Company. Mr. Joseph thanked Ms. Goran for the support. The framework focuses on three operational parameters: health safety protocols, techquity, logistics and execution; three instructional parameters: instructional
delivery and design, trauma-informed practices, and staffing. The last parameter is family engagement.

III. Finance Committee Update & Budget Overview
KC Klegar and Leslie-Bernard Joseph provided the Board with the updated on the FY21 budget and noted adjustments from the first presentation of the Budget in May. Mr. Klegar noted that the school would present an updated budget in the fall after health insurance was finalized and that CIP was likely to switch or test the market as the initial health insurance bid returned with a 28% increase.

Mr. Klegar noted that the budget was built flat but the school is prepared to leverage cash reserves for its techquity initiatives and COVID-19 expenses.

Vote: The Board unanimously approved the FY21 Budget.

IV. Facilities Update
Mr. Joseph updated the Board on its search for litigation counsel to assist with a negotiated exit of its lease at the new high school facility. Ms. McArdle noted that she was very familiar with Krisin Santillo, a founding partner at the proposed firm Gelber Santillo, and that she was confident the firm would represent CIP well.

Vote: The Board unanimously voted to authorize Mr. Joseph to retain Gelber Santillo as litigation counsel, with the associated retainer fee of $15,000.

V. Fundraising Update
Hallan (Hallie) Hanson introduced herself to the Board for the first time and remarked that she feels lucky to join the CIP team. She presented the Board with the fundraising update, noting this has been CIP’s most successful fundraising year to date, and the first time CIP has raised in excess of $1M.

VI. Adjournment
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.

I hereby certify that these are a true and correct copy of the minutes that were adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 23, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Anu Malipatil, Secretary