

The regular monthly meeting of Coney Island Preparatory Public Charter School was held on March 24, 2020, at 5:00 pm.

Board Member Present:

Anu Malipatil
Shona Pinnock
Julie Goran
Josh Wolfe
Joe Hererra
Jennifer McArdle
Sam Tweedy
Leslie-Bernard Joseph

Guest Present:

Ashley Weech
Eldridge Gilbert
Kenneth Klegar
Matt Stern
Kevin Pesantez

Quorum Present: Yes

I. Minutes

Leslie-Bernard Joseph, the Chief Executive Officer, presented the board with the January 21, 2020, and the February 25, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes for approval.

Voted: Julie Goran made a motion to approve both the January and February 2020 Board Meeting Minutes. Joe Herrera seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.

II. Current State of Coney Island Prep during COVID-19 Closure

Leslie-Bernard Joseph presented the board with the following school updates regarding the school closure during COVID-19:

1) Operations

- The co-located facilities as well as the network office being closed as of March 13th.
- Meal distribution that has been taking place at the High School as well as the adjustments in meal counts due to supply and demand.
- Vendors being moved to ACH payments and the CEO having on hand checks in the event they should be needed.

2) Academics and Distant Learning

- Work packets that were printed for every grade/course so that scholars had work for the first week of the closure.
- The launch of Coney Island Prep’s “Homeroom”, the new landing page for their online learning, family correspondences, and resources.

- 3) Family Support
 - Continuing to use every channel possible to connect with families and having multiple touchpoints with them.
 - Distributing nearly 200 laptops to families.
 - Providing microgrants to nearly 50 families who are in need.
 - Identified nearly 50 families who need internet support to whom a solution has not been found yet.
- 4) HS Seniors and Alumni Support
 - Postponement of Signing Day with the possibility of merging that with Graduation.
 - The extension of the college acceptances deadline to June 1st.
 - Extending another round of \$150 alumni grants for COVID-19 related displacement costs, lost wages, or other academic issues.

III. Long Term Closure Implications

Leslie-Bernard Joseph also provided the board with the following updates regarding longer-term planning around COVID-19:

- 1) Long Term Student Support
 - Exploring a triage approach to concentrating the limited resources and attention that Coney Island Prep has to focusing multiple touchpoints with the scholars and families who have the highest academic needs.
- 2) State Testing and Promotion Criteria
 - There are a large number of scholars who are already behind in Math and ELA and there will have to be a decision made around whether they should be promoted to the next grade or not, knowing they are likely to fall behind even further.
 - There are also seniors who have been accepted to colleges but still need to pass their regents to earn their diploma. There has to be a decision made soon on whether or not they can graduate High School on time.
- 3) Lottery and Student Recruitment
 - Currently the Kindergarten lottery is scheduled for the first week of April. Coney Island Prep has the decision to have the lottery at a time where it is insensitive to families who are not thinking about next fall or are out of step with it's charter counterparts and potentially lose applications to them.
- 4) Hiring and Staff Recruitment
 - Coney Island Prep will, unfortunately, have to make hiring decisions without having seen staff members teach their scholars.
- 5) Budget Reallocation

- They will re-allocate their budget based on their savings from cancelled events this school year. The organization wants to meet staff and family needs in the immediate term. However, COVID-19 could have longer-term implications to the way the state's budget and per pupil allocation.

VI. Facilities Update

Leslie-Bernard Joseph provided the board with an update on their new high school facility being at a standstill due to COVID-19. Before the school closure there was progress with Civic Builders and some headway with the landlord. He provided the board with next steps that are to come on Coney Island Prep's side.

Kenneth Klegar, the Chief Financial Officer, provided the board with a facilities update regarding the organizations lease at their High School location. The current structure of the current lease does not include additional expenses such as custodial/facility, janitorial supplies, etc. In order to put Coney Island Prep on the same playing field as other charter schools, the CFO suggested they amend their current lease to allow the additional expenses to pass through, along with base rent, by CIP Builders, Inc. Kenneth Klegar presented the board with a proposal to re-negotiate its current lease at 294 Avenue T and waive any conflict with Cohen Schnieder representing both Coney Island Prep and CIP Builders.

Voted: Josh Wolfe made a motion to approve to permit CIP to renegotiate its current lease and waive any conflict with Cohen Schnieder representing both Coney Island Prep and CIP Builders. Julie Goran seconded that motion and it was approved unanimously.

V. Fundraising Update

Leslie-Bernard Joseph presented the board with an update on Coney Island Prep's new Chief Development Officer, Hallie Hanson. A candidate who was mission aligned to the organization with extensive fundraising experience.

Matt Stern, the Director of External Affairs provided an update regarding fundraising since the COVID-19 school shutdown. The organization has managed to raise money for family microgrants but it is noted that this closure can have ripple effects on Coney Island Prep's fundraising goals.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to be transacted in the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm

I hereby certify that these are a true and correct copy of the "minutes" that were adopted by the Board of Trustees of this Corporation on March 24, 2020.



Respectfully Submitted,

Anu Malipatil, Secretary