

**ORACLE CHARTER SCHOOL
888 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, New York 14209**

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, January 4, 2018**

Board Co-Chairs Jacqueline Hollins and Ramone Alexander called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

The following individuals were present:

Trustees – Jacqueline Hollins, Ramone Alexander, John Whitty, Susan Hakala, Ron Stewart, James McLeod, Ramelli Choates, George Nicholas, Vivian Logan, Bryan Donohue.

Trustees Excused: Divitta Alexander, Tom Bailey, Maureen Ludwig, James McLeod.

Administration – Janet Barnes, Benjamin Willis, Ellen Connell, Dara Seeley, Kathy Herman.

Legal – Steve Polowitz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Jacqueline Hollins seconded by John Whitty, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2017 Board of Trustees Regular Meeting.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Introduction of Eric Mower + Associates, Public Relations and Public Affairs (EMA) represented by Adam Croglia, Senior Counselor, Public Affairs and Steve Bell, Senior Vice President and Director of Reputation Management.

EMA discussed their proposal to provide strategic counsel and communications assistance to Oracle in connection with CSI non-renewal recommendation; initial phase to cover of announcements to the teachers and staff, and to students, parents and the broader community. Discussion followed regarding timing, venues and development of materials, with focus on what would be best for the students and their families, as well as teachers and staff.

In the event of non-renewal decision by SUNY, there was Board consensus that, within reason, teachers and staff who agreed to stay until at least the end of the current school year should be rewarded. This was referred to the Finance Committee to come up with proposals for consideration by the Executive Committee and the entire Board.

Additional discussion with EMA was had relative to the strategy for the School's upcoming January 25, 2018 appeal to the Charter Schools Committee (CSC) of CSI's non-renewal recommendation and how to develop as strong, cogent and persuasive presentation to the CSC as possible. Several meetings will be scheduled to develop and vet the material and fine tune the presentation. Ms. Hollins and Mr. Ramone Alexander will be focusing their efforts on substantive input and ensuring that the effort is well coordinated. Outreach to Buffalo media will be limited to 2 key outlets.

Ms. Barnes remarked that the charter renewal process and the aftermath of receiving word from CSI about its recommendation for nonrenewal was very disruptive to school leaders' and teachers' desire to put students and education first.

Upon **motion by Bryan Donohue seconded by Jacqueline Hollins**, the Board voted to adopt a resolution to ratify action taken by the Executive Committee to enter into contract with Eric Mower + Associates to provide communications counsel to OCS. Ms. Vivian Logan abstained.

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION UPDATES

Written materials were provided related to enrollment, attendance, conduct, and student life activities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Financial data as of November 30, 2017 was provided to the Board.

School updates and Board Committee Reports/Business were tabled as discussion items until the next scheduled Regular Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:45 PM upon Motion by Bryan Donohue, seconded by Susan Hakala, the Board unanimously approved adjournment of the meeting.

The next Regular Board Meeting will take place on February 1, 2018.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hakala
Secretary to the Board