



## BOARD MEETING

July 29, 2021

**Time:** 6:30pm – 7:53 pm.  
**Location:** Zoom Video Webinar  
**Facilitator:** Robert T. Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
**Board Secretary:** Shanakay Walker

**Trustees in Attendance:** Stephen Rowley, Dale James, Dorothy Burton, Dawn West, Beth McKenzie, Carol Beckles, Claudette Harrison, Marie Graham.

**Others Present:** Barrington Goldson (President and Chief Executive Officer) Wayne Haughton (Chief Development Officer), Dr. Nicholas Stapleton (Chief Academic Officer), Alwayne Burke (Chief Group Financial Officer), Sandra Oneil (Chief People & Legal Officer), Dr. Paula Morris (Chief of Instructional Technology & Innovation), Antonia Christian (Shared Services Officer).

Chairman Stewart called for the President and Chief Executive Officer's Report.

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**Report/Reporter:** President and Chief Executive Officer's Report

**Person Responsible:** Barrington Goldson

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Mr. Goldson provided the Board with highlights from his report. Our application, for expansion into Wyandanch was submitted to our authorizers, the Charter School Institute, has advanced to the next stage in the process. We expect to hear details regarding our next steps in the coming months. The school continues to voice its opposition to the proposed apartment complex at the Faith Baptist site. The school wants to ensure that our scholars' safety is a priority. In regard to Academics, the assessments indicate that our scholars performed well and in most areas exceeded grade level standards. We have over 1,000 scholars attending the summer school and enrichment program. The graduation ceremony for the Academy Charter High School (Hempstead) class of 2021 was held at Hofstra University and 93% graduated. We are internally discussing strategies for opening the school in the 2021-22 SY. Trustee West is leading our annual event, Influence Day, where school supplies, bookbags and a vaccination station will be provided for the community. Mr. Goldson thanked her and her team for their diligence with that event. The Human Capital team is continuing with its recruitment campaign. The school has also met its student recruitment goal. The construction projects at the school have been going well and the team has met all deadlines in record time.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the President and Chief Executive Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee West, seconded by Trustee Graham.

The floor was opened for questions or comments for the President and Chief Executive Officer's Report.

Chairman Stewart called for the Chief Academic Officer's Report.

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**Report:** Chief Academic Officer's Report  
**Person Responsible:** Dr. Nicholas Stapleton

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Dr. Stapleton provided the Board with highlights from his report. Internal assessments for grades K-8, indicate that our scholars have made tremendous progress in ELA and mathematics. At the high school level, up to 90% have passed their core academic subjects. The summer school program offered the school the opportunity to close any learning gaps. The school Over 1,000 scholars attended the program. The academic team is preparing for the new school year and ensuring that all academic materials are available. The plan for pre-service is completed and ready to be executed in August. Dr. Stapleton acknowledged our new CTE director, Dr. Tameka Pierre-Louis. The Board was informed that in the upcoming school year, the high school and middle school will offer swimming and lacrosse to our scholars.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Academic Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee Harrison, seconded by Trustee Beckles.

The floor was opened for questions or comments on the report received. A discussion was held.

Chairman Stewart called for the Chief Development Officer's Report.

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**Report/Reporter:** Chief Development Officer's Report.  
**Person Responsible:** Dr. Nicholas Stapleton

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Mr. Haughton provided the Board with the highlights from his report. The construction projects for Uniondale and Hempstead are on time. We received our Certificate of Occupancy ("COO") for Hempstead and expect to receive the Uniondale Middle School COO shortly. The furniture for Hempstead and Uniondale are currently being delivered. The construction for the Academy Uniondale High School is ongoing. Our application for expansion into the Wyandanch area has been accepted, by our authorizers, the Charter School Institute ("CSI"). The next step will be a interview with CSI. Our discussions with the Charter School Growth Fund are ongoing, regarding their commitment for the upcoming school year. Our student enrollment goals have been met for the new school year. Building maintenance projects are being completed to ensure all buildings are ready for the scholars and staff to return for instruction.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Development Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee West, seconded by Trustee Burton.

The floor was opened for questions or comments on the report received. A discussion was held.

Chairman Stewart called for the Chief People and Legal Officer's Report.

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**Report:** Chief People and Legal Officer

**Person Responsible:** Sandra Oneil

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Mrs. Oneil provided the Board with highlights from her report. Mrs. Oneil and her team were able to hire 17 employees, 11 of which are teachers. She expressed that the team is progressing in identifying viable candidates for the "hard to fill" positions. She talked about the various methods for recruitment that are being utilized, which was inclusive of the international recruitment process. She provided a count in regard to voluntary and involuntary terminations. Continuation letters have been sent out to the staff. The Board was informed that currently nine employees are on a leave of absence, some of which include maternity leave. Over the next few weeks, the school will complete an I-9 audit to ensure full compliance in this area. The Academy continues to voice its opposition to the proposed apartment complex at the Faith Baptist Church site. The school is also in the process of changing counsel. The Academy has agreed to court sponsored mediation on the Garner matter. In regard to HR systems, the beneficiary and emergency contact platform in Paylocity will be completed before the end of July.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief People and Legal Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee Burton, seconded by Trustee Beckles.

The floor was opened for questions or comments on the report received. A discussion was held.

Chairman Stewart called for the Shared Services Officer's Report.

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**Report:** Shared Services Officer

**Person Responsible:** Antonia Christian

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Ms. Christian provided the Board with highlights from her report. She highlighted that the COVID daily report system will be consolidated as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. Each employee will upload their vaccination status into the system. The school is also currently outlining the policy for staff members who are unvaccinated. A mid-year evaluation of the health insurance plan is being conducted to evaluate the categories that carry higher usage. The team is researching resources that will address mental health concerns, pregnancy support and post-partum support.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Shared Services Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee Harrison.

Chairman Stewart called for the Chief of Instructional Tech and Innovation Officer's Report.

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**Report:** Chief of Instructional Technology and Innovation Officer

**Person Responsible:** Dr. Paula Morris

**Action Items**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Dr. Morris provided the Board with highlights from her report. She reported that her team is working on increasing technology efficiencies. The faculty, staff and students who were in need of technology during the summer school period were adequately facilitated. Networks in all buildings have been upgraded, which included cyber security monitoring products. The new devices for the upcoming school year have been secured. The MacBook Pros for the Class of 2021 have been delivered and are ready to be distributed. The inventory system is fully operational and up to date. All technological assets have been added and labeled. The training for staff, for the VLE platform and video conferencing are scheduled to take place during the pre-service training.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief of Instructional Technology and Innovation Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee Harrison, seconded by Trustee Beckles.

Chairman Stewart called for the Group Chief Financial Officer's Report.

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**Report:** Group Chief Financial Officer's Report

**Person Responsible:** Alwayne Burke

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:** Mr. Burke provided an update on the financial status of the Academy. The revenue numbers are consistent with the budget. The billings have been made and we are awaiting collections. All receivables related to the 2021 school year have already been collected. The current receivables are now related to the next school year. In regard to initiatives, the air purifiers were purchased and upon arrival they will be installed in all classrooms. The team is also in the process of doing an inventory of other assets such as furniture and books. They are currently on the inventory for the Academy Hempstead High School and will move on to the middle school then the elementary. As it pertains to the accounting systems, they are using a new system to process payments. The system is working for the team, however, there are a few areas that will need improvement to use it efficiently. The numbers for the report will be provided in August to get a full understanding of the 2021 school year.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Group Chief Financial Officer's Report. Motioned by Trustee James, seconded by Trustee West.

The floor was opened for questions or comments on the report received. A discussion was held.

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| With no further questions or comments, Board Chairman Stewart requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motioned by Trustee Graham, seconded by Trustee West.

Board Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for attending. He gave all the Trustees an opportunity to greet all attendees at the Board Meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.