

Harambee Institute of Science and Technology Charter School Board of Trustees Public Meeting Minutes

Board Meeting Minutes Wednesday November 17, 2021

The meeting of the Board of Trustees Public Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 via Zoom 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Open Session

Meeting Called to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.
by Board Member Joseph Foster

Libation (Mama Renee Whitby)

Board member Renee Whitby was asked to lead the meeting with libation

Introduction of Visitors and Others Present

Visitors were introduced and stated their names, titles and purpose

Simone McCloud, third grade teacher

Leah Young, sixth grade teacher

Goldie, Guidance Counselor

Shakira- Executive Assistant

Nikia Brown-Instructional Coach

Zendra Green- CRT team and parent

Roll Call

Board Member Joseph asked Board members and the senior leadership team to give introductions. Board members and the senior leadership team introduced themselves, stated their names and titles.

Board members Present:

Maurice Baynard

Joseph Foster

Jan Gillespie- Walton

Monique Braxton

Charis Jackson

Donna Holmes- Lockett

Renee Whitby

Board members absent:

Marirose Roach
Lakiesha Creighton
Larry Bell
Wade Mosely

Others Present:

Gregory Shannon	CEO
Michelle Thornton	CFO
Sara Ferguson	Assistant Principal of Instruction
Ericka Washington	Assistant Principal of School Operations
Delia Archer	Assistant Principal of Specialized Services

Review of the October 27th Meeting Minutes (Approval of minutes)

Board Member Joseph asked if there were any corrections and/or additions to the minutes. He opened the floor to Board members for comments. There were no additions or corrections. Board member Renee made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by board member Jan. All were in favor, none opposed, and there was a unanimous motion to accept.

Motion: Accept Board meeting minutes as presented

Approval: AYE: 7 Nays: 0 Abstentions: 0 Absent: 4

Leadership Report Greg Shannon, CEO

Board member Joseph turned the meeting over to Greg for the leadership reports. Greg began by introducing Dr. Delia Archer and welcoming her to the team. She gave a brief synopsis of her background and education. She shared that she is a Philadelphia native, born and raised in West Philadelphia. She noted that she started her career in special education after graduating from Drexel University. She has been an adjunct professor at Lincoln University for the past six years in the Special Education department and is happy to bring her expertise to Harambee.

Organizational Leadership and Charter Renewal

Greg reported that the Board Chair, Dr. Maurice Baynard and Board Secretary, Joseph Foster signed the documents for the five-year Charter Renewal. He also reported that they held a special meeting on November 2nd for the Board to vote on the five-year term and the Board accepted it. The vote will be recorded into the minutes so that it becomes official as part of the public record. Following this meeting Greg and Ericka will work to upload those documents into the school districts portal as well as forwarding hard copies to the school districts charter school office. This information will be read at the next school district board meeting and will make the charter renewal term official.

Charter Renewal Framework

Greg reported that the school district has given them a framework of items that they must achieve over the course of the five-year term. He indicated that he and Ericka have worked together to create a framework for satisfying those items, many of which include their conditions for renewal. They have created a tracker to help them to monitor their progress with satisfying those conditions. They will also hold periodic meetings with senior leadership staff and the Board to track the items. They will be reaching out to the Board within the next seven days to set up a schedule of meetings to determine how the conditions will be handled.

Act 55 Training and Certification

Greg reported that the Act 55 training is now complete. He said that they uploaded the information on November 15th to the school district of Philadelphia. They are now in compliance and certified. He gave thanks to the board for their participation.

Friends of Harambee

Greg announced that they have developed a wonderful committee of participants for the Friends of Harambee Advisory Committee. He noted that Dr. David Arscott and Dixon Stroud have been instrumental in providing opportunities and support for the children of Harambee. Dr. Arscott and Stroud have provided opportunities for the children to go out to the Stroud Water Research Center to participate in two water research experiments in the forest.

Greg also noted that he was invited to a Gala at the research center last week where Dixon Stroud pledged his support to Harambee in the amount of \$50,000. He indicated that the 50k is contingent upon a matching pledge from Harambee and the Board. If they can pledge the same amount he will honor his pledge of fifty thousand dollars to the school. Greg noted that he has a second meeting on Thursday with the Stroud Water Research Center. He informed members that participants on the committee were scheduled for an in person walk through today to get a close up observation of their school operations, but unfortunately the meeting had to be cancelled.

Greg introduced Leah asked her to speak to the Board about the trip that the students attended at the Stroud Water Research Center. She reported that on their first visit they took thirty students, which they broke into groups of two with the educators at the center. They were able to visit the stream and allowed the students to perform water samples and experiments. The students were extremely excited for the opportunity and are looking forward to returning again soon. She also noted that a week later they were able to take an additional fifteen students out to go canoeing and the greatest thing about that experience was that the Stroud staff taught the students how to be safe but more importantly they were learning how to work together and think critically.

50th Anniversary Gala

Greg announced that this is their golden 50th anniversary and he is soliciting the support of Board members and the school community in the development of their Golden Anniversary Gala event. He announced that they are once again looking at the Belmont Mansion to host the event. He asked that Board members and senior leaders commit to a \$1,500.00 contribution. He stated that the committee plans to schedule a planning meeting within the next week. They hope to hold the event on Thursday May 19, 2022. He indicated that he hopes that this event will allow Harambee to raise funds for the children and the organization. He indicated that he would be sending out communication to Board members and the committee asking for a date to plan for this momentous occasion.

Dr. Baynard stated that he hopes that the Gala will include information about the fifty-year history of founders and others that worked so hard and put forth effort in making the Harambee community a reality. He stated that the alumni that have gone to do significant things should also be recognized in this fifty-year celebration. Greg noted that he and the planning committee plan to include the contributions of many and that is the reason that he has strategically asked Board member Renee who is a keeper of the culture and historian to participate on the committee. He also plans to partner with Big Picture Alliance to create a short film that chronicles those that have been instrumental in the movement over the past fifty years.

Greg indicated that they would be setting up a portal for contributions that will allow members and contributors to make contributions over time. He said that the \$1,500.00 contribution does not have to be paid all at once it can be paid December through May.

Specialized Services

Student Records

Greg reported that their student records appear to be in compliance. He stated that his latest update indicated that all were in compliance with the exception of one student record that they are working to bring into compliance. Greg also informed members that Dr. Archer will officially begin working with Harambee for Specialized Services on December 22nd 2021 and they are delighted to have her lead that program.

PIMS Report

The PIMS report for December will be submitted on December 1st and they anticipate being in total compliance at that time

Gifted Services

Greg reported that they have identified five gifted students and will be working through the service delivery of the program. He said that they will continue to identify students that qualify for gifted services to provide them with a differentiated experience.

Business and Finance, Michelle Thornton

Greg turned the meeting over to Michelle to give the Budget and Finance report. Michelle shared with members that she had a scheduling conflict and would not be on camera. She indicated that she would only highlight three areas this evening.

Reconciling Enrollment