



## BOARD MEETING

May 27, 2021

**Time:** 6:34 pm – 7:30 pm  
**Location:** Zoom  
**Facilitator:** Robert T. Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
**Board Secretary:** Shanakay Walker

**Trustees in Attendance:** Robert T. Stewart, Roger Ball, Carol Beckles, Dorothy Burton, Peter Goodman, Marie Graham, Dale James, Beth McKenzie, Stephen Rowley, Dawn West, Roderick Roberts,

**Others Present:** Barrington Goldson (President and Chief Executive Officer) Wayne Haughton (Chief Project Officer), Donovan Henry (Chief Financial Officer) Carl Johnson (Assistant Chief Financial Officer), Paula Morris (Chief of Instructional Technology & Innovation), Nicholas Stapleton (Chief Academic Officer), Antonia Christian (Shared Services Operations Officer), Alwayne Burke (Chief Group Financial Officer), Wayne Peterkin (Interim Hempstead MS Principal), Travis Holloway (Hempstead HS Principal), Beverly Gallimore- Vernon (Hempstead LES Principal), Chameita Avin (Uniondale Elementary Principal), Heather Graham (Hempstead UES Principal), Juliann Harris (Uniondale HS Principal)

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

**Report/Reporter:** President and Chief Executive Officer's Report  
**Person Responsible:** Barrington Goldson

**Action Items:**  
**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:**

Mr. Goldson greeted the Board and all attendees. He thanked Chairman Stewart and the Board for working tirelessly to serve the Hempstead and Uniondale community. Mr. Goldson informed the Board that the pursuit for the charter expansion for Wyandanch is ongoing and the Chief Development Officer will provide additional information in his report. He was excited to announce that the Academy has secured financing for the Uniondale High School building project that will start in the summer of 2021. Mr. Goldson thanked the stakeholders for their support as well. He provided the Board with an update as it relates to the Faith Baptist Church. The school continues to voice our opposition to the proposed apartment complex adjacent to our Middle and High School campus. He informed the Board that he attended, in person, the Village Board of Trustee meeting on May 18, 2021, and voiced the concerns about the recent gas leak at the Church's site, which caused all three schools to be evacuated. He also voiced concerns about

the eminent danger the project poses for the Academy. Mayor Waylyn Hobbs assured him that the Village's building department is monitoring the situation and will keep us updated of any matters of concern. The operations manual deadline has been extended to July 2021. Mr. Burke will elaborate on the new accounting software that is scheduled to be implemented 6/1/2021. College placement and graduation will be addressed by Dr. Stapleton. The high school graduation is scheduled for 6/25/2021 at Hofstra University. Staff recruitment and student recruitment is ongoing. The respective leaders will cover this area in greater detail in their report. He also expressed the need for housing accommodations for our international teachers. Mr. Goldson concluded by thanking the Board and the Academy for allowing him to serve the school community in this capacity.

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

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:** Chief Development Officer's Report

**Person Responsible:** Wayne Haughton

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:**

Mr. Haughton provided the Board with highlights from his report. He indicated that his report contained various visual highlights, which showcased the progress of both construction projects. He stated that construction is on target and in some instances ahead of schedule. He provided updates regarding various aspects of the Hempstead project. The Board was informed that the Fire Marshall is scheduled for a walkthrough so the building certificate of occupancy can be issued. As it pertains to the Uniondale construction, that is also ongoing. The expansion of the gym is just about complete. The flooring and painting are completed. Mr. Haughton stated that work has begun on the western side of the building. The work is ongoing and is also awaiting the Fire Marshall's review. As it pertains to Wyandanch outreach, letters of support and signatures are being obtained. The school intends to host a Friends of the Academy – Wyandanch day to give the residents an opportunity to learn more about the Academy and its mission. All supporting documents have been submitted to our authorizer, the Charter School Institute ("CSI") and the Academy is awaiting their review. There is also a meeting scheduled with the Charter School Growth Fund regarding the upcoming school year.

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

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

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

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**Report/Reporter:** Chief Academic Officer’s Report.

**Person Responsible:** Nicholas Stapleton

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Stapleton greeted the Board and presented his report. He reminded the Board that scholars are completing the NYS assessments in grades 3-8. The participation rate despite the challenges with COVID-19 is above 90%. The Academy scholars in Uniondale participated at 98% rate. The goal with these assessments are to use the data to address any learning loss in the following school year. Students in the high school and eighth grade will be taking limited Regents Exams in June 2021. Our authorizers, the Charter School Institute (“CSI”) informed the Academy that they will not be using Regents scores as the only grading measure to assess the effectiveness and quality of instruction being presented to the scholars. Instead, they will also consider our in-house assessments, from grades 3-8 and teacher departmental exams at the high school level. Growth will be assessed from the beginning of the school year in September until the end of the year in June. This data will be compared to charter schools in New York state as well as other states. He noted the Academy will host the longest summer school program in the history of the school as it pertains to the number of students enrolled, number of programs offered, number of weeks and the timeframe for summer school each day. K-8 will be an 8-hour program and the high school will focus on core content subjects. In the afternoon, there will be enrichment programs. The Board was informed of the class of 2021 93% graduation rate. Dr. Stapleton complimented the Hempstead High School Principal, Mr. Holloway along with his staff for a job well done.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Academic Officer’s Report.  
Motioned by Trustee Ball, seconded by Trustee Graham.

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 was not in attendance, but her report was submitted to the Board of Trustees People & Legal Committee prior to the meeting for review.

Chairman Stewart called for the Chief of Instructional Technology and Innovation Report.

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

**Person Responsible:** Paula Morris

**Action Items:**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Morris provided the Board with highlights from her report. The implementation of the management system and cyber security plan is in progress. The Information Technology team will begin the collection of devices for maintenance and reissuance for the upcoming school year. A wide area network is being built and more information will be forthcoming in that regard. Various instructional support systems have been added to meet the needs imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Morris thanked her team and the Academy for partnering and ensuring that the school is technologically rich and innovative.

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

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

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

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

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**Report:** Shared Services Operations Officer

**Person Responsible:** Antonia Christian

**Action Items**

**Deadlines:**

**Conclusion:**

Ms. Christian provided the Board with highlights from her report. She provided an analysis of the benefits plan performance. The highest number of claims for the 2021 was due to maternity. There was a wellness survey conducted to see what areas of top concerns for the staff were and to ensure their concerns were a deciding factor in future benefits decisions. In terms of vaccinations, roughly 60% of the staff members have been vaccinated. The other 40% did express the interest in becoming vaccinated.

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

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

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. Budget is positive in comparison to past years given this same time. In terms of year-to-date comparison, the budget of Hempstead was slightly higher due to an increased enrollment rate,. The account receivables are current, as in less than 30 days old. Our cash on hand is positive and continues an upward trajectory. The accounting manual that was submitted and approved is currently being implemented. The new accounting software is being tested and the relevant staff is being trained. He expressed that he expects a smooth implementation beginning July 2021.

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

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### **Resolutions**

Resolutions hereafter were given a document number and voted on by Board of Trustees accordingly.

Additionally, Chairman Stewart had each trustee vote individually on each resolution.

**Resolution with document number 5001-2021**

Re: May monthly financial committee report (May)

**Resolution with document number 5002-2021**

Re: Approval of disbursements of vacation payouts

**Resolution with document number 5003-2021**

Re: One-time compensation for specified staff members

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

Board Chairman Stewart thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.