



**BOARD MEETING FOR THE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL  
October 28, 2021**

**Time:** 6:30 PM – 7:21 PM  
**Location:** Virtual Meeting (Zoom Webinar)  
**Facilitator:** Robert T. Stewart, Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
**Board Secretary:** Shanakay Walker

**Trustees in Attendance:** Stephen Rowley, Dale James, Claudette Harrison, Roderick Roberts, Marie Graham, and Dorothy Burton.

**Others Present:** Barrington Goldson (President and Chief Executive Officer), Wayne Haughton (Chief Development Officer), Nicholas Stapleton (Chief Academic Officer), Alwayne Burke (Chief Group Financial Officer), Wayne Peterkin (Interim MS Principal), Travis Holloway (HS Principal), Dr. Dezmarie Hines (Interim LES Principal), Dr. Dawn Cejas (Uniondale Principal), Ahmed Zubair (Uniondale MS Principal), Heather Graham (UES Principal), Juliann Harris (Uniondale CTE HS Principal), Donovan Henry (Chief Financial Officer) Carl Johnson (Assistant Chief Financial Officer), Paula Morris (Chief of Instructional Technology & Innovation), Antonia Christian (Shared Services Operations Officer).

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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:** Bishop Barrington Goldson

**Action Items:** None

**Conclusion:** Bishop Goldson greeted the Board and attendees and provided highlights from his report. Bishop Goldson commended the principals, operational staff and administrative staff on a job well done for the start of the school year. Regarding expansion, the charter application for Wyandanch has been approved by our authorizers, the Charter School Institute. The school is scheduled to open in September 2022. In The school continues to voice its opposition to the proposed apartment complex next to the school. There has been continued deliberations between the representatives of Faith Baptist Church, the developers and the school to come to a favorable decision for all parties involved. As it pertains to academics, Dr. Stapleton will provide details regarding strategies that will be implemented to close the

learning gap that is present due to pandemic. After school resumed in the month of October. These activities end around 5:30 pm daily. The CTE program at the Uniondale High School continues to grow as additions are made to the curriculum. Bishop Goldson asked the Board to refer to the report for additional details.

In terms of recruitment, Bishop Goldson advised the board that recruiting is ongoing and challenging, but the Human Capital team has been working diligently to fully staff all campuses. Regarding scholar enrollment, there has been a noticeable difference in the retention rate. The retention rate for enrollment was impacted by the lifting of the rent embargo, which has caused several families to relocate. Bishop Goldson indicated there will be a parental survey, a scholar survey, and a technology survey to assess the various group's satisfaction level with the named areas. Bishop Goldson stated his satisfaction with the schools' current financial state and indicated that the Group Chief Financial Officer will cover this area in greater detail. rt. Motioned by Trustee Rowley, seconded by Trustee Harrison.

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

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:** None

**Conclusion:** In Mr. Haughton's absence, Mrs. Barracks, Chief Strategic Development Officer presented highlights from his report. The last shipment of furniture for the Hempstead Upper Elementary school was received and installed. Parking arrangements have been agreed upon with the Village for municipal parking for field #8. A deep cleaning was conducted in our Middle school and Upper Elementary school as a COVID precautionary measure. At the Uniondale campus, the Middle school has been approved by the Fire Marshall and the temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. The underpinning of the building are completed and casting is ongoing. The installations for the Uniondale Upper Elementary school cafeteria are completed. The plans regarding any new fixtures being added has been submitted for review. A request was made to the Town of Hempstead for municipal parking in Uniondale and the school awaits their response. Regarding partnerships, the school continues to speak with the Charter School Growth Fund pertaining to funding for the 2022-2023 school year. The application for a charter in Wyandanch was approved by our authorizers, the Charter School Institute. Outreach will continue in the community to continue to bring an awareness about the school.

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

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:** None

**Conclusion:** Dr. Stapleton greeted the Board and presented his report. The BEDS report was completed on October 4, 2021. The findings show an increase in the Hispanic population through all schools. There is also noted an increase in ELL scholars in grades one through four. The pattern is also similar in Academy Uniondale. The Department of Education has released the results from the State assessments for grades 3-8 for ELA and Math. Regarding attendance, all schools have seen a strong showing for in-person as well as remote learners, with over 95% for Academy Uniondale and 93% for Academy Hempstead. The academic team analyzed the Renaissance data for grades 3-8 and found the results were traditionally lower than in previous years. Dr. Stapleton expressed that despite the numbers shown, he is very confident that the numbers will increase throughout this school year.

The after-school program is in full swing and is offering scholars additional academic support where needed. Afterschool will be conducted weekly, Monday through Thursday. Intercession school will be used as a tool to offer scholars academic support and address the learning loss attributed to the pandemic. Later in the year, Saturday school will be launched to aid in that endeavor. Dr. Stapleton indicated that the principals have done a tremendous job with the outreach to parents. Town Hall meetings have been conducted to ensure that parents are involved and know the proper channel by which to address any concerns they may have. The Board was also informed that the Director of Counselling has worked feverishly to ensure that scholars are given the proper services they need to succeed in the classroom. Dr. Stapleton closed by stating that the school is ensuring academic support for our scholars as well as focusing on social emotional learning.

Chairman Stewart requested a motion to accept the Chief Academic 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 Chief People and Legal Officer's Report.

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**Report:** Chief People and Legal Officer

**Person Responsible:** Sandra Oneil

**Action Items:** None

**Conclusion:** Mrs. Oneil presented highlights from her report. Recruitment is an ongoing process. For the month of October, 17 individuals have been hired across the Hempstead & Uniondale campus. The school has experienced a challenge with teacher retention because the district schools have focused recruiting efforts on our teachers who are vaccinated. To address this challenge, the Academy is tapping into their international resources to fill open positions. There were 12 terminations across the Hempstead & Uniondale campus' for the month of October: one involuntary and eleven voluntary. All international teachers have arrived safely for the 2021-2022 school year. The recruitment process for the 2022-2023 school year has started with international recruitment. There are eleven individuals who are on PFL or FMLA leave. Regarding policy and procedure, the Academy has provided training to all promoted staff

to ensure success in their new roles. Internal audits are being conducted covering PTO and leave requests. With regards to legal updates, the Academy continues to voice its opposition to the proposed apartment complex and is in discussions with all involved parties in hopes of reaching an amicable solution. Additional litigation is being handled by an external legal team and updates will be provided to the Board accordingly.

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

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

**Person Responsible:** Dr. Paula Morris

**Action Items:** None

**Conclusion:** Dr. Morris provided the Board with highlights from her report. The device tracking system has been very helpful in tracking devices throughout the campuses. Close to 90% of devices have been distributed across the Hempstead & Uniondale campus. Regarding software management, there has been an increase in the use of software presently as compared to the pre-pandemic data. Regarding cyber security, the Academy has a system in place to track and monitor trafficking on the database.

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

The floor was opened for questions or concerns regarding 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:** None

**Conclusion:** Ms. Christian provided the Board with highlights from her report. Research is currently being conducted to afford staff members who are interested in taking the booster shot, the opportunity to do so. The Academy is not mandated by the State to have all staff vaccination. However, the staff members who are not vaccinated must comply with a weekly PCR testing and uploading of the results. As it pertains to scholar testing, a form was sent to parents to give consent for their child to be tested. In the month of October, the total number for staff members who have contracted COVID-19 is two and thirteen for scholars. She affirmed that these numbers were relatively low in comparison to the district. There has been one worker's compensation case for the month of October.

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

The floor was opened for questions or concerns regarding 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:** None

**Conclusion:** Mr. Burke provided an update on the financial status of the Academy. The financial statement for the month of August through September. Revenue numbers have increased approximately 8%. On the expenditure side, there has been a decrease in comparison to 2020. For Uniondale, there is increase in revenue at 90% and expenditures at 94%. For the month of September, Academy Hempstead revenue has increased by 22% for September and expenditures are trending downward compared to September of 2020.

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

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

## Resolutions

Resolution hereafter was given a document number and voted on by Board of Trustees accordingly.

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

- **Resolution 10001-2021** - Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees  
Re: Financial committee resolution
  
- **Resolution 10002-2021** - Unanimously passed by the Board of Trustees  
Re: Financial committee resolution

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM.