

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOLDEN DOOR CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES HELD WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015 AT 5:30 PM IN THE MAIN FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

I. CALL TO ORDER

This meeting has been publicized in accordance with Section 5, Ch 231, PL 1975, Open Public Meeting Law by notification of the Jersey Journal and Hudson Reporter within the legal time required. Time may be allotted for public comment at this meeting

II. FLAG SALUTE

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

III. OUR MISSION

The Golden Door Charter School was founded on the simple convictions that a first-rate education is the right of every individual, that all children can learn, and that every child should be challenged to reach his or her full potential. The overall goals of the school are to:

- Demonstrate the benefits of academic achievement that public school students can routinely attain when the advantages of charter school governance are coupled with ambitious new academic standards
- Increase the availability of choice to parents and students when selecting a learning environment
- Encourage the use of different and innovative learning methods

IV. ROLL CALL

Board Members (voting):

Joanne Youmans (President)	<u>Present</u>
Danielle Downs (Vice President)	<u>Present</u>
Jessica Cappadona	<u>Present</u>
Nick Del'Re	<u>Present</u>
Tonya Keyes	<u>Present</u>

Additional attendees (non-voting):

Brian Stiles (Chief School Administrator)	<u>Present</u>
Paul Velelis (Business Administrator / Board Secretary)	<u>Present</u>

Note: Ms. Downs and Ms. Cappadona arrived at the meeting during Public Comment.

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V. PRESENTATION

- None

VI. MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Del'Re and second by Ms. Youmans to approve the following minutes by unanimous voice vote (3-0):

- Board minutes of **October 21, 2015**.
- Executive session minutes of **October 21, 2015**.

VII. CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER REPORT

Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Brian Stiles, reviewed the following items for the Board:

- Report provided and discussed at the meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Secretary invited members of the public to present any comments to the Board. The following comments were made:

- Edward Amaya, Golden Door teacher, read a statement discussing why the staff unionized and how their rights were being compromised. Stated that negotiations have hit a standstill and there was concern for the future of the school.
- Karina Acosta, Golden Door teacher, discussed how the school was not the same and no longer had that "family" atmosphere.
- Four (4) former graduates of Golden Door Charter School currently attending McNair High School spoke at the meeting. They each credited Golden Door teachers with their successes. At different times, they expressed a desire to help the teachers get better compensation.
- Anna Marin/Josephine Suarez/Violeta Mieles, Golden Door parents, each spoke and stated that the school is changing due to the large number of teachers leaving. They felt that the teachers deserved more compensation.

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- Juan Gonzalez, Golden Door parent, stated how he was saddened to hear of the internal issues and was hoping it would be resolved; however he didn't want to take sides as he was pro Brian Stiles and pro teachers.
- Stephanie Parson, PTA President, was concerned that a large number of teachers are leaving every year. She also mentioned technology and mentioned how other charter schools are obtaining grants.
- Brian Stiles, Golden Door CAO, discussed the funding disparity between Jersey City Public Schools and the charter schools. He encouraged parents and staff members to contact their legislators and testify at the budget hearings in March. He also stressed how the Board has made every effort to get this negotiation done.
- Joanne Youmans, Board President, briefly touched on her experiences in the education field in Jersey City. She stated that things change all the time in education and people need to adapt accordingly. She encouraged everyone in attendance to make every effort to testify at the budget hearings and commended the work being done by the CAO and SBA.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Public bodies may meet in closed session when the matters under discussion are: (1) Matters made confidential by state, federal law or rule by court. (2) Disclosure would result in an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy, unless the person affected consents in writing. (3) Disclosure would impair the body's right to receive federal or state funds. (4) Collective bargaining. (5) Lease or acquisition of property, setting of banking rates, investment of public funds if disclosure would harm the public interest. (6) Investigations into violations of law. (7) Strategies to protect public security. Pending, ongoing or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation, including attorney-client privilege. The threat of litigation must be more than theoretical for this exemption to apply. (8) Personnel matters affecting employees of the public bodies, unless all parties request or consent to a public hearing. Prior to discussion of personnel, affected employees must be given notice, known as a Rice notice, which gives the employee the right to request a public hearing. (9) Proceedings that could result in a suspension, civil penalty, or loss of a license or permit.

Motion by Ms. Youmans and second by Ms. Cappadona to approve the following resolution and go into closed Executive Session. Carried by a unanimous voice vote. (5-0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION STARTED AT 6:40 PM

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WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, intends to exclude the public for a portion of this meeting, and

WHEREAS, that pursuant to an exception contained in the Open Public Meetings Act of 1975, the Board of Education will now go into closed session for the purpose of discussing **collective bargaining and personnel matters** and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate minutes shall be taken by the Board of Trustees during this closed session, and at such time as the confidentiality of these minutes is no longer necessary, they will be released to the public, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no formal action will be taken by the Board of Trustees during this closed session.

Motion by Ms. Cappadona and second by Mr. Del'Re to come out of Executive session. Carried by a unanimous voice vote. (5-0)

EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED AT 6:50 PM

THE BOARD RECONVENED THE REGULAR MEETING AT 6:50 PM

The Chief Academic Officer recommends the following resolutions for approval:

X. FINANCE

Motion by Ms. Downs and second by Ms. Keyes to approve Item A. Carried by unanimous voice vote (5-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the contract with **Millennium Strategies** for **grant-writing services** from January 1, 2016 through May 31, 2016 at the amount of \$2,500 per month for a total of \$12,500.

Items B and C Tabled until January

- B. Move that the Board of Trustees accept the **Audit Management Report and CAFR** conducted by Barre & Associates for the year ending June 30, 2015 (Note: Hard copies to be distributed at the meeting).
- C. Move that the Board of Trustees approve the NJDOE submission of the **revised FY16 Budget** as per attached document.

Motion by Ms. Youmans and second by Ms. Downs to approve Items D through J. Carried by unanimous voice vote (5-0).

- D. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Payroll Report for October 15, 2015** in the amount of \$179,046.87.

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- E. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Payroll Report** for **October 31, 2015** in the amount of \$181,276.84.
- F. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Payroll Report** for **November 15, 2015** in the amount of \$179,999.26.
- G. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Payroll Report** for **November 30, 2015** in the amount of \$180,500.48.
- H. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Bills List** for **October 2015** in the amount of \$196,078.38.
- I. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Bills List** for **November 2015** in the amount of \$119,298.82.
- J. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **Bills List** for **December 1st-16th 2015** in the amount of \$152,075.53.

Motion by Ms. Cappadona and second by Ms. Youmans to approve Items K through P.
Carried by unanimous voice vote (5-0).

- K. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board of Trustees's Monthly Certification of Financial Status: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11 (a) 4, the members of Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees certify that as of **September 30, 2015** after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the fiscal school year.
- L. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report: The Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the Report of the Secretary and Treasurer's Report which said reports are in agreement for the month ending **September 30, 2015**
- M. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board of Trustees's Monthly Certification of Financial Status: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11 (a) 4, the members of Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees certify that as of **October 31, 2015** after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the fiscal school year.

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- N. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report: The Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the Report of the Secretary and Treasurer's Report which said reports are in agreement for the month ending **October 31, 2015**
- O. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board of Trustees's Monthly Certification of Financial Status: Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6:23-2.11 (a) 4, the members of Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees certify that as of **November 30, 2015** after review of the secretary's monthly financial reports (appropriation section) and upon consultation with the appropriate district officials, that to the best of our knowledge, no major account or fund has been over-expended in violation of N.J.A.C. 6A:23-2.11(a) 3 and that sufficient funds are available for the remainder of the fiscal school year.
- P. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the Board Secretary's Report and Treasurer's Report: The Golden Door Charter School Board of Trustees accepts the Report of the Secretary and Treasurer's Report which said reports are in agreement for the month ending **November 30, 2015**

XI. PERSONNEL

Motion by Ms. Cappadona and second by Ms. Youmans to approve Item A. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (5-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the promotion of **Katherine Javier** from paraprofessional to position of **MS Special Education teacher** at a pro-rated annual salary of **\$46,000** effective December 1, 2015 (Note: Replacement for Emily Bischoff who will be replacement for Karina Acosta who has resigned).

Motion by Ms. Youmans and second by Ms. Cappadona to approve Item B. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (5-0).

- B. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the hiring of **Virginia Gomes** to the position of **paraprofessional** at a pro-rated annual salary of **\$26,000** effective December 1, 2015 (Note: Replacement for Caitlin Coll who will be replacement for Katherine Javier who was promoted to teacher).

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XII. CURRICULUM

Motion by Ms. Youmans and second by Ms. Keyes to approve Item A. Carried by unanimous voice vote (5-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **submission of the 2016-2017 preschool program plan and budget planning workbook** to the NJ Division of Early Childhood Education.

Motion by Ms. Keyes and second by Ms. Del'Re to approve Item B. Carried by unanimous voice vote (5-0).

- B. Resolved that the Board of Trustees **approve walking field trips within 2 miles** for the Preschool classrooms provided that they are approved in advance by the CAO.

XIII. GOVERNANCE

Motion by Ms. Youmans and second by Ms. Keyes to approve Item A. Carried by unanimous roll call vote (5-0).

- A. Resolved that the Board of Trustees approve the **list of 5000 series policies (first reading)** as per attached policy index.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Del'Re and second by Ms. Cappadona to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Carried by a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Paul Velelis
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary