



# MOTT HALL CHARTER SCHOOL

RISE TO THE CHALLENGE

Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes

December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board” or “BoT”) of the Mott Hall Charter School (the “MHCS”) was held on the above date beginning at 5:35 p.m. local time pursuant to notice duly given.

### Attendance

- The following Trustees were present: Sandra Lugo, Karen Bhatia (Video Conference), Francesca Weindling (Visual Conference), Kevin Murungi (Video Conference)
- The following Trustees were absent: Natalie Thompson and Jason Caldwell

The following school staff and guests were present: Connie Lobdell, Principal and Executive Director; Yvette Colon, Director of Operations (DOO); Prospective Board Members: Luis Quan, Donald Mabrey and Dr. Patrick Awosogba

### Call to Order, Public Comment and Board Discussion

- After noting that a quorum was present, the meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m.
- No public with comments.
- Connie Lobdell:
  - o Application for prospective board member Luis Quan has moved up in State approval
  - o Josh Moreau will give financial update at next board meeting in January
  - o Instructional Audit – Dr. Awosogba will report in January. Connie Lobdell will forward report to Board for review prior to January board meeting. Will forward to State at that time in complying with Corrective Action Plan (CAP)
  - o Contacted attorney at State, Karonne Jarrett Watson, and informed her that several attempts had been made to contact the State.
    - Mott Hall Charter School does not have a State liaison at this time and had applied for material revision and prospective board members.
    - Ms. Jarrett Watson apologized that no one had responded but she would be looking at portal for prospective board members.
    - List shows other schools for material revision but Mott Hall is not on list nor has the school received any response. Possible reason may be the lack of a State liaison.
    - All communication with State to be put in writing (email) and board members copied
  - o Jalen Brunson Foundation
    - Jalen Brunson, basketball player for the New York Knicks
    - Introduced to Mott Hall by Maria Kero
    - New to New York and has created a foundation
    - Mott Hall is the first school in the foundation
    - Coat donations
    - Providing support to students who live in shelters and has requested a list of students in shelters
    - Will be communicating with Ms. Colon, Ms. Flores and Ms. Paschal
  - o Social Emotional Grant
    - Intern will be joining Mott Hall
    - Connie Lobdell informed of another grant that would address the needs of bilingual families
    - Mentee will be working with Connie Lobdell at the school
    - Need innovation due to pandemic and mental health issues
  - o Applications for grants are needed at this time to help and support families, as well as funding for new space for school
  - o Scholars and home visits are resulting in being more comprehensive
    - Eyes on all scholars resulting in increase of attendance

- Lateness and absences have improved
    - More awareness of what is going on with scholars and families
    - Happens every week
  - Reviewed Accountability Dashboard
  - Enrollment and Recruitment –
    - 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 69; 7<sup>th</sup> grade – 66; 8<sup>th</sup> grade – 90: 225 scholars
    - 20 applications are in for next year (2023-2024)
  - Scholars in need of coats
  - Working on building relationship with parents/families where they feel comfortable to say and make school aware of their needs, i.e. coats
  - Perspective of marketing
    - Increase in offer of sports to be made available for next year
    - Keeping scholars in school
    - Community partnership with principal Luis Torres
    - Collaborating with Luis Quan who is providing ideas for student involvement
    - Take parents on tour both physically and virtually
    - What will attract families?
    - Scholars returning
    - Canvassing – physically and virtually
    - High School placement
  - Develop committees
- Yvette Colon:
  - Reviewed Accountability Dashboard
  - Maintained student enrollment at 225
  - Student attendance increased
  - Staff attendance maintained from October to November
  - Informing of available seats
  - Recruitment has started with new recruitment Operations staff member
  - Open house meetings have started and scheduled throughout the school year
  - Waiting on completed documentation in order to project number of scholars applying for 2023-2024
- Saturday Academy (9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.)
  - Activities to engage scholars
  - Breakfast and lunch provided
  - Some colors come in earlier (8:30 a.m.)
- After School
  - Snacks are provided
  - Scholars are involved
- Shelter Scholars
  - Update from Ms. Paschal needed
  - Will develop list
- What scholars need:
  - Socks, footwear, backpacks
  - Deans have gotten in touch with their communities for donations
  - Technology is being provided
  - Karen Bhatia - Board member can donate items and/or funds in helping these scholars
- Kevin Murungi:
  - Inquired about retention
  - Families moving out of state
  - Over enrollment
  - Connie Lobdell informed that Chalkbeat had reached out to her regarding issue of lowering enrollment and families moving out of state
    - Several schools have applied for material revision showing that other charter schools are having enrollment issues
    - Concern about safety and scholars being prepared for high school

- o Luis Quan stated he has also seen issues with enrollment in District 9
  - Retention is affected by what school is offering
  - Enrollment issues is a problem across system
- Connie Lobdell recommended board training after the holidays
  - o Have a retreat to meet everyone

**Board Motions and Approvals**

1. Motion to approve November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes made by Kevin Murungi, and seconded by Francesca Weindling - Board reviewed and unanimously approved.
2. Motion to move forward with prospective board members made by Kevin Murungi, and seconded by Sandra Lugo - Board reviewed and unanimously approved.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra Lugo, Secretary

APPROVED:  
Sandra Lugo  
Name



Signature

\_\_\_\_\_   
Date

*All trustee meetings for Mott Hall Charter School are open meetings subject to the NYS open meetings law. While we encourage public participation and provide a designated time for public comment, individuals are limited to two minutes total of public comment each, unless the Board asks for additional feedback. All trustees and members of the public must abide by norms around professionalism and civility in their comments. Complaints against a specific employee or public comments that may reveal confidential information will, consistent with the open meetings law, be handled through our dispute resolution process or may be heard in executive session.*