**Ascend Public Charter Schools**

**Meeting of the School Board of Trustees**

**July 18, 2024**

**12:00 pm**

**Location: Dial-in**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Trustees in attendance**

Anthony Rose, Courtenaye Jackson-Chase, Emmanuel Fordjour, Gabrielle Ramos, Gamal Walker, Janai Jeter, Taiesha Seales (via tele- or videoconference)

**Ascend staff in attendance**

Anastasia Michals, Danique Day, De La Cruz, Emily Acuna, Gabrielle Gilliam, Kate McGrath, Maryann Li, Recy Dunn, Tohgo Saegusa (via tele- or videoconference)

Emmanuel called the meeting to order at 12:06pm.

1. **Response to public comment**

At June’s meeting, Keona Jackson gave public comment. She is a first-year Ascend parent to a kindergartener. What plans does Ascend have in regard to involving parents to make informed decisions with school leaders, with less emphasis on recruitment and academic workshops?

1. **Public comment**

Ruth Tekle and Vanessa Gairy signed up for public comment, but were provided the incorrect meeting link and therefore weren’t present. Ascend conducted outreach to the families following the board meeting.

1. **Consent agenda**

Emmanuel moved to approve the June 18, 2024 meeting minutes. Janai seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Emmanuel moved to authorize CFO Edison De La Cruz’s addition to all financial accounts. Courtenaye seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Emmanuel moved to approval the board officers as listed below and to renew all trustee terms. Courtenaye seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

Co-Chairs: Emmanuel Fordjour and Gabrielle Ramos

Treasurer: Anthony Rose

Secretary: Janai Jeter

Trustees: Courtenaye Jackson-Chase, Taiesha Seales, Gamal Walker, Jackie Wilson

1. **Finance update**

Edison presented the finance update. We are $7.7M favorable to budget year to date, due to vacancies across the schools as well as lower costs due to budget management initiatives throughout the year.

Edison then shared an update on Ascend’s ESSER funds, which were granted in FY20-22 to help schools safely reopen following the coronavirus pandemic. Ascend implemented financial sustainability measures in FY23 to prepare for the end of these one-time grants. There are two upcoming deadlines in September to close out ESSER II and ARP ESSER grants, for which Ascend will have to submit an amendment detailing final expenditure plans, which include operational continuity, addressing learning loss, and other investments.

1. **Executive session**

At 12:27pm, Emmanuel moved to enter executive session, which Courtenaye seconded and was unanimously approved.

At 12:34pm, Emmanuel moved to exit executive session, which Janai seconded and was unanimously approved.

1. **Principal appointments**

Janai moved to appoint Christopher Ford as principal of Brooklyn Ascend Lower School. Gabrielle seconded, and the motion was carried unanimously.

1. **Adjournment**

Emmanuel adjourned the meeting at 12:37pm.

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Name Date