Minutes for November 21, 2018 Board Meeting

**Place:** Administrative Offices OnTECH Charter High School, 810 Willis Ave, Syracuse, NY 13204

**Present:**

Ellen Eagen, Founder & President

Victoria Giarratano, Excused

Bill Sanford, Trustee

Stephen Kimatian, Secretary/Treasurer

John Stegeman, Trustee/ Chairperson

Eskedar Getahun, via telepresence

Francis Coudriet, Administrator

Joshua Schneider, Head of Academics

Keil White, Director of Operations/ Facilities

**1. WELCOME**

Chairperson of the meeting, John Stegeman, called the meeting to order at 5:45 PM. He welcomed everyone and said it was exciting to be in the school’s new home now closing in on the first half of the school year.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Chairperson then ask for a vote approving the November 21, 2018 meeting minutes. Trustee Sanford moved, seconded by Trustee Stegeman to approve the minutes from November 21, 2018. There being no further additions, modifications, or corrections, the motion was carried unanimously.

**3. FACILITIES / OPERATIONS**

The Chairperson called upon Keil White, Director of Operations, to give the facilities report. Mr. White stated that the new fire alarm system had been installed. The only item left to secure the approval was to install the fire rescue windows. He stated that given the board’s approval of the snow plowing contract, he retained the services of Andy’s Property Maintenance. Work would continue to be done in the church to complete the fire alarm system and comply with code. He said the abatement work at the rectory had been completed.

**4. ACADEMICS REPORT**

The Chairperson called upon Joshua Schneider to present the Academics report. Mr. Schneider said that the school was now fully staffed. Physical Education Andrea Mortis has joined the faculty. He said that he now had more time to get into the classrooms and work with the teachers. STAR based assessments would be done of all students next week. This will give the teachers a much more accurate idea of the level of capabilities of each student which will enable more effective teaching to the needs of the individual students. Progress reports will be going out for all students over the next two weeks. The school will also be hosting parent-student open house in the first week in December.

Trustee Eagen spoke about the Alternative to Violence Project. She said they are an international organization that has established credibility in presenting programs addressing violence in schools. They specifically address anger issues of teenagers. They will be presenting a half day program in December for all students. She said that we need to continue to try different ways to reach the students, particularly those with behavior issues. Traditional approaches do not always work. Trustee Eagen said that the optimum approach in dealing with students on issues was to have them have a stake in creating the outcomes. However, admittedly some students do not accept the responsibility for their actions.

A discussion ensued concerning the best ways to reach students. The merits of the advisory period were reviewed in connection with the culture of the school. The extent to which consequences would be assigned to levels of behavior was also a part of the discussion.

Trustee Sanford asked whether the curriculum needed to be re-examined with respect to the student body as it is now constituted.

**5. FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Chairperson called up Trustee Kimatian to give the financial report. Trustee Kimatian said that the latest payment from the school district was received and that he expected the first 20% of the CSP monies to be paid over before the month of November was over. With this, the school will have its accounts up to date including computers, furniture and work done in connection with cabling and creating the inter-connected IT network.

**6. PERSONNEL AND STAFFING**

Trustee Eagen informed the trustees that Chris Petrilli had been brought on to support security and student relationships. He will be working in conjunction with James Price, Dean of Students.

**7. GOVERNANCE**

The Chairperson called upon Trustee Eagen for this report. Trustee Eagen said that the plan remained the same to have a search for a head of school in the first quarter of the New Year. She also said that given the two Trustees who would no longer be able to serve on the Board, the Board would be looking to bring on new Trustees. Trustee Sanford said that he would be spending more time in Florida and out of town. He said that he would still be able to continue supporting the schools in areas of political and community relationships. At the end of this school year, Trustee Stegeman informed the board that he had accepted a new position with a west coast Independent school.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote of the Board.