

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, September 18, 2024

Location: 3030 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

Meeting called to order at 6:35pm

In attendance: Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, Maria Garcia Beltre, La Shawn Butler, Bety Quiroz, Luisa Ubiera, Yanelis Munoz, Denise Martinez, Edilis Gonzalez, Anthony Lopez

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on June 17, 2024, were reviewed. Ms. Garcia Beltre proposed the motion of approval of the minutes with Denise Martinez provided second for the motion. All members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

CEO Report

Provided the board members the quarterly financial statements for the institution, prepared in accordance with GAAP.

Update on Construction of Middle school -

Eric Chen, the property owner, has reported that we are on schedule to open in the summer of 2025. The foundation and the first floor of the school have been successfully completed. The lease required an amendment since we were supposed to open in the summer of 2024, which did not happen due to construction delays. A pre-scheduled walkthrough is available for those who are interested.

Independent Financial Audit

The audit is in process and will be completed on or before November 1, 2024, for submission to SUNY CSI. We may encounter a notation in our review due to our experiences with external bank fraud on three occasions over the summer, and the impact of under enrollment on our financial revenue.

Governance: Board Retreat: Saturday October 12, 2024, between 10am-2pm

Board Member meeting interview Tuesday October 22, 2024, at 5:30pm at ILCS at the school. All board members are required to attend.

Charter school Renewal visit:

November 4-5, 2024, for two days. The board members are NOT required to be present.

Board interview: Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 5:30pm. It is Mandatory that all board members participate. Please do not forget to VOTE early.

Book Release and Signing Event - Wednesday September 25, 2024, at 6pm. to 7:30pm at ILCS

Light refreshments and snacks will be served at 5:45pm.

Chief Officer Strategic Partnerships Report:

MMC - - Mosholu Montefiore Community Center manages our afterschool programs and operates our summer booth.

Tae Kwon Do – The agreement is between Powerspeed Taekwondo (hereinafter referred to as “PSTKD”) copy of service agreement presented to Board members.

Thrive Scholars- Provides Free college rigorous readiness program

Travel Program – In progress of forming a partnership with the I Am CULTURED program. Their mission aligns with ours, emphasizing experiential learning, mentorship, and cultural experiences to foster youth development and workshops.

The response to the two AI and Technology proposals is awaited.

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, October 9, 2024

Location: 3030 Riverdale Ave, Bronx, NY 10463

Ms. Butler called the Board meeting to order at 6:40pm.

In attendance: Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, Maria Garcia Beltre, La Shawn Butler, Bety Quiroz, Luisa Ubiera, Yanelis Munoz, Maximo Dume, A. Gonzalez, Anthony Lopez

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held in September 2024, were reviewed. Ms. Yanelis Munoz motion the approval of the minutes and seconded by Luisa Ubiera. The minutes were approved by all attendees.

Chief Operating Officer Strategic partnership report:

An update has been received regarding the two submitted grants to BLACC organization for AI and Technology infrastructure.

The new leadership of the BLACC organization, with whom we collaborate, visited the ILCHS school. Veronica is the name of the incoming leader. BLACC awarded our charter school, with two grants of **\$50,000** each, for a total of **100K** with one allocated for Innovation for AI education in the curriculum. and the other for Legacy to increase capacity in technology infrastructure i.e. student information system.

The athletic director at Manhattan University was contacted regarding a potential partnership for use of their facilities for student activities. This initiative attempts to improve the physical education experience and promote student retention.

CEO Report:

The Charter school renewal application has been submitted prior to its deadline and all necessary requirements have been met; therefore, no further action is required from us.

The application for charter renewal, as well as all the relevant materials presented were reviewed. The board members performed a thorough review of the section related to board governance:

Renewal benchmarks:

- Is the school an academic success?
- Is the school an effective, viable organization?
- Is the school fiscally sound?
- If the school's charter is renewed, what are its plans for the term of the next charter period, and are they reasonable, feasible and achievable?

The charter schools must demonstrate a complete and evidence-based case of student achievement development over the charter's term and that they have the systems to continue that success. The charter schools must also prove their financial stability. This relates to our budget shortfall because of under enrollment. It is not a charter school-specific problem; rather, it is a city-wide and national concern.

Charter school agreement requirements at least 85% of students should be retained annually. The school has met this requirement every year excluding the 2019 pandemic. Post-COVID, the school recognized a decline in enrollment and reached out to SUNY CSI to revise the enrollment chart to reflect this. Enrollments remain a challenge, impacting daily management and operations effectively.

Charter schools receive less than 25% to 30% of the financing that public schools do. Charter Schools need to secure funds through grant applications, foundations and discretionary allocations.

The board is focused on formulating a detailed strategy for fundraising initiatives.

Charter Renewal Rally & Hearing:

Ms. González, who oversees parent engagement, is coordinating event for parent and members of school community to conduct a rally and hearing for renewal rally at the school on October 24, 2024.

Yanelis Munoz is currently serving as the interim financial treasurer.

Board Members Zoom meeting recap of training retreat Monday October 21, 2024, at 6:30pm

Board Interview: Tuesday, November 5, 2024, at 5:30pm.

It is mandatory that all board members participate.

Please do not forget to VOTE before November 5th.

Meeting adjourned: 8:pm

International Leadership Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, December 4th, 2024

Location: 3030 Riverdale Ave, Bronx 10463

In Attendance: La Shawn Butler, Maximo Dume, Yanelis Munoz, Luisa Ubiera, Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, Anthony Lope

Approval of Minutes: La Shawn Butler and Maximo Dume moved to approve the minutes. Meeting commenced at 6:43 PM.

CEO Report:

Our CEO, Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, provided a comprehensive overview of Bond Holder meetings and the discussion regarding our financial performance metrics. An extensive list of documents were requested by them and were provided before the November 22, 2024 bond holder meeting. There are two primary investors; Ty Shoback from Columbia Thead Needle and Matthew Whorisky from MFS. While they were actively engaged in the discovery and questions, their legal counsel, Patidar Poonam appears to have been given a lot of power and latitude to negotiate the agreement with our charter school. Our CEO requested SUNY's support and participation in these meetings. The Executive Director, Kathryn Oconnel Espinosa and Dilek U joined the meeting.

This participation from SUNY was requested by our CEO as there were concerns about the aggressive tone of the meeting and the direction that the discussion was headed. It was communicated a few times (on and off zoom meetings) by Bond Holder legal representative, that there was dissatisfaction with the fact that our charter school expanded, and this was being viewed unfavorably and the cause of our inability to meet the DSR and DOCOH. When in fact, our financial liquidity was caused by under enrollment by 20% and the timing of when these two loan covenant requirements are measured.

After a lengthy meeting on 11/22/24, with the executive leadership and the finance team, the bondholders informed us that our request for a waiver would not be granted and instead a forbearance with additional reporting requirements would be issued. As of the date of our board meeting on December 2024, the Financial Audit has yet to be filed as it would be another 4 weeks before the bond holders would complete their due diligence review and decide upon what the agreement would contain.

At conclusion of the meeting, we addressed our confidence in our potential to fulfill 2025 cash on hand and debt service ratio targets. The bond holders have decided to grant us forbearance, allowing us the necessary time to strengthen our finances. However, it was expressed that the fact that we must pay for our legal counsel as well as the bond holder legal counsel, this was sure

to create further financial burden on our charter school finances. The CEO and our bond counsel, Lydia Stefanowicz requested that the legal fees be kept to a minimum in consideration to our charter school. The leadership at SUNY expressed support for our charter school, indicating confidence in our financial stability, and asserted that low enrollment impacts all schools, particularly charter schools.

Chief Officer for Strategic Partnerships Report:

A detailed overview report of the first quarter of the year was provided to the board members.

Highlights: Ongoing partnership successes with Montefiore Mosholu Community Center, Thrive Scholars, Black, Latinx, Asian Charter Collaborative (BLACC), Latino Charter Leaders Roundtable, and a new partnership with Power Speed Tae Kwon Do. Key Program Components: Martial Arts Classes; Discipline Workshops

NYU Teacher Residency Program

The school has initiated a new collaboration with the NYU Teacher Residency Program. This year, our school has been assigned and hired one resident English teacher.

State University of NY (SUNY) Top 10% Promise A program called “Top 10% Promise” guarantees that high school graduates with a GPA in the top 10% of their class will be automatically accepted to a prestigious SUNY campus, if they meet certain academic readiness standards.

Strategic plan for the next quarter in partnership with the Board Chair:

We put forward the following objectives:

Strategic Board Growth, Trustee Education; Student Recruitment Approach; Capital Raising Efforts: Proposed Strategic Collaborations, including the University of Mount Saint Vincent.

Strategy for Increasing Student Enrollment

A strategic enrollment plan has been developed and is being implemented by the enrollment team. The market analysis insights provided by the CEO represent the first step in our initiative to increase enrollment and to utilize the data to distinctly outline what differentiates our school from the nearby institutions.

NYS Exams and Accountability

Our charter school may have to identify an alternative to the NYS Regents exams. The NYSED, has made the decision to eliminate them in the next 2-3 years. There is a federal mandate to keep two federal regents' items, Mathematics and English which are mandatory for graduation. SUNY indicates that we are not affected; and that we may choose to continue offering the five regents, but it is necessary to evaluate the advantages and disadvantages of this decision. The leadership and board, expressed concerns, that this may represent a further decline in educational and performance standards for public schools. This may force our charter school to identify alternative measures of success. Our charter school along with others, have demonstrated

superior performance compared to public schools in the city and state. The Regents Exams are part of our accountability measures.

Increasing Finances:

CO for Strategic Partnerships Tony Lopez shared a draft of a *Give or Get Campaign*, to the board for discussion and potential adoption.

Tony is actively engaging private family foundations that typically provide funding for general support, which includes grants from organizations like The Walton Family Foundation, Bloomberg Philanthropies, and submitting a grant application to the New School Venture Fund. Letters of intent were distributed for fundraising contributions. A contact at the Rockefeller Foundation has been established for follow-up. We are currently waiting for the official grant award from BLACC for \$100,000.

The Fight for Equity in the Bronx

An official book launch took place at the school on September 26, 2024. The event was a cultural celebration of the institution's history, including the school's founder. Many friends and supporters turned out for the event. The funds generated from book sales will be used to establish the *Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez college Scholarship fund* and relaunch the Friends of International Leadership Group. We take part in the Puerto Rican Institute for the Arts at Boricua College. The objective of the effort is to raise \$11,000. To award a \$1,000 scholarship to 10 students. We have raised approximately \$3,000.00 that will provide at least three scholarships so far.

Additional Partnerships:

We contacted the president of University of Mount St Vincent, with whom we have maintained a relationship with the university for the past ten years, as we have conducted our graduations at their university. We seek to explore a formal partnership and request the opportunity for further discussion. We request the opportunity to introduce 9th and 10th graders to college life through physical fitness, facilitating a relationship to utilize their recreational facilities. Additionally, to arrange for our students to enroll in unity audit classes for the 11th and 12th to exposed them to or broaden opportunities for some upperclassmen in school. The suggestion was also made for the dual enrollment program, which allows students to enroll in college courses for college credit. A follow-up call has been planned with our school's CEO and the university principal. (A new principle has been appointed, which may cause a delay in our requests). We propose establishing a connection with their school of education to facilitate the placement of some of their teachers at our schools. We are attempting to present this strategic alliance as the only school in this zip code that has this type of thorough engagement with a college campus, in addition to this data and why your student should come here.

We are currently waiting for the official grant award letter from BLACC for \$100,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

Location: 3030 Riverdale Ave, Bronx 10463

In Attendance: Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, Anthony Lopez, La Shawn Butler, Yanelis Munoz, Denise Martinez, Betty Quiroz, Luisa Ubiera

Approval of Minutes: La Shawn Butler and Luisa Ubiera moved to approve the minutes. Meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Topics discussed: **“Deferred Compensation “Rabbi Trust”**

CEO Report:

The previous board of trustees entered into an agreement of a "Rabbi Trust," recognized as a Deferred Compensation agreement, in December 2021.

This agreement is intended to delineate the compensation package for the Chief Executive Officer as they approach retirement age. This agreement was established by the preceding board of trustees; any actions undertaken by the former board members remain in effect, as they constitute a legally binding document.

A comprehensive review and explanation of the Deferred Compensation “Rabbi Trust” for the International Leadership Charter HS was explained to assist new board members in comprehending and supporting the Deferred Compensation agreement. LaShawn Butler and Betty Quiroz moved to approve.

Chief Officer for Strategic Partnerships Report:

The GoFundMe page is currently active, presenting ongoing opportunities for growth. We will reach out to groups of parents and school community to inform them about this initiative.

We are currently calculating the total number of books sold, as the scholarship amount will not be restricted to two thousand. The total will be adjusted based on the number of books sold.

We are optimistic that we will launch a scholarship program this year for the first time!

On January 8th, we submitted a grant to the NewSchools Venture Fund for \$250,000 focused on training our teachers in the use of AI for lesson planning, particularly to support differentiated instruction for students with IEPs and English language learners. Having reached this stage, we now await the outcome of our progression to the next level. If we qualify, the team will undergo interviews in March, and a decision will be reached in June about the grant's approval.

The CO is currently exploring additional opportunities within foundations. The Peter & Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation (PCLB) has been identified as an organization that supports charter schools in Connecticut and New York City, in addition to offering general support grants. This is a new foundation that can be approached to secure at least 350k in general support.

The CO is actively engaging in discussions with the University of Mount Saint Vincent about potential partnerships related to their recreational facility. The school of education is currently engaging in discussions with the CEO and the principal regarding various opportunities, including teacher exchange programs and dual enrollment, aimed at enabling our students to take college-level courses on their campus.

The grant from BLACC has been awarded in the amount of \$100,000.

Meeting adjourned at 7pm

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Location: 3030 Riverdale Ave, Bronx 10463

In Attendance: Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, Anthony Lopez, Maximo Dume, Betty Quiroz, Edilis Gonzalez, Luisa Ubiera, Maria Garcia

Approval of Minutes: Maximo Dume and Betty Quiroz moved to approve the minutes.

Meeting commenced at 6:35pm.

CEO Report:

The Bond Investors monthly meeting report:

We are now holding monthly meetings with Bond Investors and are required to provide our financials monthly. This commenced with the signing of the forbearance agreement in January. We will continue this process until the end of December this calendar year. Our audit has been released. Copies of the final audit were distributed to board members.

Enrollment:

The team remains focus on enrollment and recruitment efforts. Our current enrollment stands at approximately 401 students, an increase from the 395 students reported during our previous board member meeting.

Finances:

We plan to announce the expected per pupil amount on March 1st, estimating a total of approximately 1.8 million dollars. The amount may seem substantial; however, it is crucial to distribute overhead costs and operating expenses within the per pupil amount. The funds will be essential to support us until May, after a thorough assessment of all expenditures.

College Prep

In terms of the college prep program, over 85% of students have received at least one or more college acceptance letters. An update will be provided by the CEO at the upcoming BM in March. We have already received information regarding students who are receiving either a complete scholarship to these institutions or some form of scholarship funding.

One of our students, Gabrielle, is on track to graduate with a full year of college credit. He consistently attended the College Now program at Lehman College, and we have a significant number of students participating in the College Now program.

Chief Officer for Strategic Partnership Report:

Update regarding the partnership with the University of Mount St. Vincent (UMSV) –

Discussions are continuing about utilizing their facilities for space. We began our discussion in December 2024, and they later requested that we submit a proposal. This week, we are engaged in a series of questions regarding potential fees and our time management for the space, as they are currently in their basketball season. They exhibit limited flexibility. We will submit proposals and monitor progress. It's uncertain whether anything will materialize this semester; however, we will make it known, and we will be well-prepared for the upcoming year, should needed.

Additionally, we have maintained a consistent partnership with UMSV for the teacher pipeline. The faculty of education at the UMSV has been collaborating with school leadership to establish a teacher residency program in addition to the one we currently have with NYU.

Two applications were submitted, one to the Charles Hayden Foundation and the other to The Peter & Carmen Lucia Buck Foundation (PCLB). We're waiting for a response.

We have received an invitation from the Bloomberg Philanthropy foundation to submit an application for another year of Summer Boost, with the application due date for March 14, 2025.

Sunny Larson from Bloomberg Philanthropies visited us on December 11 at the middle school. The CEO has communicated with them and submitted a proposal that emphasizes enhancing our capacity to increase enrollment and has requested an additional \$750,000. A response was received from the chief program officer for the VP, indicating that the budget for 2025 has not yet been established. They will reach out as soon as they have further information.

Action Items:

The necessity for every public and charter school to establish an ICE immigration policy stem from the impact of law and immigration enforcement. This policy ensures that, if ICE ever visits our premises, we can provide them with our policy and assert that the charter school district Board of Trustees is committed to supporting our families and students. Additionally, it stipulates that individuals are not permitted entry into our facility unless they possess a judicial warrant signed by a court justice with a clear name. The guidance provided by the NYS Governor's Office, the state education department, and SUNYCSI was the source of this.

For years, schools have been conducting shooter drills and lockdown drills; now NYSED is advising us to implement ICE drills. We showcased on the Promethean board what the ICE drill will entail to prevent any panic. It will be a standard lockdown, but the context will indicate that ICE is at the door.

Resolution # 1

ILCHS Board of Trustees for Encounters with Law Enforcement Relating to Immigrant Students with Immigration family members:

District Charter School Policy #2

Immigration Enforcement, Student Privacy, and Access to Education. This is the information that the leadership team will provide to law enforcement if they arrive at the door.

Maximo Dume called a motion to approve the resolution. Lisa Ubiera seconded and the motion carried.

Expulsion of student AF

A letter documenting disciplinary hearing was sent to the parents of student processed for expulsion. The purpose of the hearing was to ensure that student and parent were provided with their Due Process Rights. Numerous efforts were made to initiate dialogue and foster collaboration with parents and/or legal guardians concerning this significant behavior and the student's overall well-being. There was very little cooperation.

An appeal to her expulsion was submitted after two weeks and it was reviewed. The CEO determined that all due process procedures were followed by the school's leadership team and the appeal was denied based on the safety issues and numerous security challenges that the student presented. The violation of numerous disciplinary infractions outlined in the 2024-2025 International Leadership Charter HS Parent/Student Handbook were reviewed. The specific infractions were found in **Article 4: Zero Tolerance – A detailed letter was sent to the parents and/or legal guardians of the student, summarizing the serious incidents. The letter was respectfully shared with the board members as well.**

Numerous efforts were made to initiate dialogue and foster collaboration with parents and/or legal guardians concerning this significant behavior and the student's overall well-being.

A Motion was presented to uphold the expulsion decision by Betty Quiroz and Maximo Dume seconded and the motion carried.

The Chief Executive Officer reached out to SUNYCSI regarding the renewal report. The CEO has been informed via email that we can expect to receive the renewal report along with the recommendations in approximately two weeks.

Meeting Adjourned 7:01pm

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Location: 3030 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx 10463

In Attendance: Anthony Lopez, LaShawn Butler, Maximo Dume, Betty Quiroz, Denise Martinez, Luisa Ubiera

Approval of Minutes: Denise Martinez and Betty Quiroz moved to approve the minutes

Meeting commenced at: 6:17pm

Chief Officer for Strategic Partnership Report:

A follow-up meeting occurred with UMSV regarding the physical fitness education initiative. Their availability is restricted to the mornings, creating a conflict with our schedules. We have chosen to revisit this discussion next year, as the progress is gradual. A few days have been set to meet and presently awaiting their response.

We applied for \$100,000 in the Summer Boost initiative from Bloomberg Philanthropy.

We have submitted a summarized college prep proposal to The Charles Hayden Foundation for 100k and The Jack and Jill Foundation for 500k.

The proposal for the new school venture funds for AI, totaling \$200,000, is currently being reviewed as we await confirmation of our progression to the next round.

We need to stay informed, and if we don't hear from them, it means we weren't successful this time. Nevertheless, we shall continue our efforts. We applied for middle school last year and were not accepted; yet we are still determined to pursue this opportunity.

Awaiting to hear back from Lucia Buck Foundation.

The Go Fund Me campaign is progressing favorably; we have raised \$2,180. The book sales generated \$3,105. Total today: \$5,285; goal: \$11,000

Board Chair Lashawn Butler:

We received a nice summary from the renewal, with encouraging information/recommendations to share.

A Zoom meeting for the SUNY board renewal is scheduled for April 10, 2025, at 1pm.

They will primarily seek information regarding our external partnerships (NYU Teachers Residence and the upcoming UMSV) as well as our professional development sessions, which occur every Wednesdays. A question regarding finance may arise.

Talking points: ILCHS welcomed April Hernandez Castillo as a guest speaker on March 31, 2025. She is an actor, lecturer, and author of "Embracing Me." She is known for her roles in Prodigal Son, Dexter, and Freedom Writers.

Participations:

The National Dominican Women's Caucus Dr. at John Jay College Dr. Elaine Ruiz-Lopez participated in an educational panel alongside the chancellor of NYC. Michelle Aviles Ramos.

The New York State Association for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) Saratoga, NY.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:43pm

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Location: 3030 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx, NY 10463

In Attendance:

LaShawn Butler, Maximo Dume, Betty Quiroz, Denise Martinez, Maria Garcia Beltre, Luisa Ubiera.

Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez, Anthony Lopez

Denise Martinez provided Motion to approve the minutes and Maximo Dume seconded the motion.

Meeting called to order at: 6:20pm

Board Chair Report:

We met with SUNY virtually on April 10th and received approval for another five-year renewal of our school program. This renewal will allow us to continue providing quality education and support to our students. We are excited about the opportunities this extension presents for enhancing our curriculum and expanding our resources.

CEO Report:

Update on the First Lease Amendment Agreement.

We submitted the initial lease amendment for the location at 231 W 232nd to the bondholders for their approval.

Lease Amendment:

The revised lease agreement clearly outlines the modifications. One amendment was made due to construction delays, which pushed the lease commencement date for location 231 W 232nd to September 2026. Additionally, there is a stipulation indicating that should the landlord not fulfill the development by October or November 2026, we reserve the right to terminate the lease; our move-in date to W 232nd is projected for January 2027.

And secondly, there is a revised fixed rent schedule. It is contingent on the minimum and maximum enrollment levels.

Engagement with Bond Representatives:

A copy of the revised Lease agreement, along with the revised Fixed Rent Schedule, was provided to the Bond Holders and all board members via email. They have yet to approve the amendment as they have now inserted a "Subordination Agreement" for Eric Chen, Landlord to sign. The school would have to be in agreement and sign as well. There have been concerns expressed about the tone and contents of this proposed agreement that were never discussed with the CEO of agreeable to Mr. Chen.

Dr. Ruiz-Lopez engages in monthly meetings with the bondholders. Following a thorough review of discussions and the financial analysis report presented, it has been determined that, after accounting for the pre-pupil and fulfilling all financial obligations, we will not be meeting the debt service ratio nor the required DOCOH for a second year for period ending June 30, 2025.

Financial Management:

The CEO's recent efforts, with the assistance of the fiscal team, have been engaged in discussions with each vendor to whom we have financial obligations. We are making payments at a percentage, demonstrating our commitment to fulfilling our responsibilities. This approach allows us to maintain a positive standing while ensuring we do not deplete our resources entirely, potentially leaving us with 15 days of cash on hand.

All expenses from now until June 30 are accurately reflected in the provided cash flow report.

College decision day is scheduled for May 8, 2025, in the morning. Many wonderful things are happening with our graduating seniors. Many of our scholars continued to receive acceptances to prestigious schools and institutions, including SUNY. The graduation ceremony is scheduled for June 27, 2025, at Mount Saint Vincent University.

We are in the process of finalizing the contract for the prom scheduled for Thursday, June 5, 2025, and are exploring the option of the Botanical Garden as a venue.

Chief Officer for Strategic Partnership Report:

We are delighted to report that we have received the Summer Boost grant from the Bloomberg Philanthropy Foundation, totaling \$100,000.

During the conversation with UMSV regarding physical fitness, we are going to continue to talk. I provided the option to use their gym on Saturday when we start up our Saturday academy. The issue is that during the school year, both gyms are utilized by their sports programs for the athletic club. The CEO will speak to Dr. Edward about the schedule for the 9th grade next year to see if we can have two days a week where students do not have major content courses in the morning.

A question was asked regarding the grades of enrollment for the middle school in September, with the CEO addressing the question by saying, "We are only focusing on sixth grade; if there are families who require 7th and 8th graders, we will backfill". The middle school has a gymnasium.

Meeting adjourned at: 7:05pm

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, May 14th, 2025

Location: 3030 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx 10463

In Attendance:

Dr. Elaine Ruiz-Lopez, Anthony Lopez, LaShawn Butler, Maximo Dume, Betty Quiroz, Denise Martinez, Luisa Ubiera, Desiree Grant, Edilis Gonzalez.

Minutes' Approval: Maximo Dume moved to approve the minutes, and Maria Garcia Beltre seconded the motion.

Meeting commenced: 6:37pm

CEO Report.

Topics Discussed:

College Decision Day:

Achieved significant success, 100% of our students successfully gained admission to their preferred colleges.

Bondholders lease amendment agreement update:

The current issue is that the bondholders will not approve the lease amendment until the landlord signs the subordination agreement.

This situation presents a challenge, as it requires consideration of terminating the lease with the landlord, Eric Chang. It is crucial that we prioritize enrollment to ensure financial stability.

The lease amendment was amended to reflect changes to both the commencement date of the Middle school and the offsite date for terminating the lease.

We have been requesting additional extensions. We anticipated having all resolved by April 1, 2025, but that did not occur. The CEO sent an email requesting yet another extension, we are now extending through July 15, 2025. This extension acknowledges the persistent challenges of the under-enrollment issue and provides further time to address our financial viability, which has been negatively influenced by the under-enrollment.

Landlord, Erik Chen informed CEO that he will not sign a subordination agreement.

The email containing attorney Ms. Stefanowicz's correspondence about the bondholder's lease amendment was sent to the board members.

There is a projected enrollment of 502 students in the HS who will be accepted for the upcoming school year; While this figure falls short of the 515 registered students required to ensure financial viability, it underscores the urgent need for strategic initiatives to bolster recruitment efforts. Achieving a sustainable cash-on-hand debt service ratio.

Board Chair:

The Board Chair posed a question to the operations team concerning the strategic plans for enrollment.

The operations team's response:

- Maintaining our pursuit of new recruits
- Reaching out to all the Community base organization (CBO) we have partnership with
- Reaching out to the local churches
- Social Media Platforms
- Flyers
- Canvassing – setting-up tables
- Engaging with members of the community
- Underdog a recruiting agency.
- Reaching out to parent coordinators and the school guidance counselors
- Scouting of the Catholic schools that are going out of business
- Expanding the number of relationships and partnerships

For the middle school 6 grade we are reaching out to the parents and for the ILCHS we are trying to recruit students directly from the schools. The target enrollment for 6th grade is 60 students; however, we currently have only 41 students enrolled.

Meeting adjourned: 7:07pm

International Leadership Charter High School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Wednesday, June 14th, 2025

Location: 3030 Riverdale Avenue, Bronx 10463

In Attendance: Dr. Elaine Ruiz-Lopez, Anthony Lopez, LaShawn Butler, Maximo Dume, Betty Quiroz, Denise Martinez, Maria Garcia Beltre, Luisa Ubiera.

Minutes' Approval: Denise Martinez moved to approve the minutes, and Maria Garcia Beltre seconded the motion.

Meeting commenced: 6:15pm

CEO Report.

Topics Discussed:

Agenda Items for Approval

Budget FY 2025-2026 –

A pre-existing budget line for a Chief Academic Officer has been recommended for hire

Audit Engagement Letter (Provided to all Board members)

New Insurance Company: Wright Insurance Binder: Board members provided with the proposal premium summary.

- Denise Martinez and Betty Quiroz moved to approve the agenda items.

Regarding the bond investors, the CEO has kept the board updated on the status of her monthly meetings (via Zoom) with them. The enrollment numbers have shown improvement.

Chief Operating Officer Strategic Partnership Report:

All board members received an extensive overview report on our strategic partnership for the period from January to June 2025. We are pleased to highlight our continuous accomplishments with:

Montefiore Mosholu Community Center: Our ongoing partnership continues to deliver essential after-school programs for middle school.

Black, Latinx, Asian Charter Collaborative (BLACC): BLACC Fund: The school received a \$50 legacy grant to improve the data tracking system.

Latino Charter Leaders Roundtable: This initiative has created an additional platform to promote peer-to-peer leadership, advocacy, and community engagement among seven Latinx charter school leaders.

Power- speed Tae Kwon Do and

NYU Teacher Residency Program.

Key Highlights:

- *Summer Boost funding Bloomberg*
 - *After-School Programs*
-

Thrive Scholars: Our partnership with Thrive Scholars aims to support high-achieving, underrepresented students as they get ready for college and their future careers.

Key Highlights: Five International Leadership scholars were accepted into two Thrive programs

Double Discovery Program: Our partnership with Columbia University's Double Discovery Program has resulted in this year's Salutatorian, Samara Zatari. Ms. Zatari has been accepted into the BRAINYAC Program in Neuroscience at Columbia University.

The Fight for Equity in the Bronx: The Bronx Public Library Center in Kingsbridge will host an interactive art exhibit that references Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez's autobiography in June.

New Partnerships:

Center for Education Innovation (CEI)/Digital Promise

Learn more: digitalpromise.org/initiative/micro-credentials/

University of Mount Saint Vincent: ILCHS seeks a long-term partnership with UMSV to introduce and engage 9th and 10th grade students in a collegiate environment by utilizing the UMSV gymnasium for physical fitness and wellness programs. Written details were shared with the board members.

Mercy University

Overview: Mercy University has implemented two educator pipeline programs that could potentially aid ILCHS in the recruitment and training of future educators.

- Student Teaching Program
- Student Residency Program

Friends of International Leadership: ILCHS will establish an official "Friends of International Leadership" to aid in fundraising efforts leading up to the celebration of its twentieth anniversary.

Scholarship Campaign: This year, ILCHS will present five \$5,000 Dr. Elaine Ruiz Lopez College Scholarships to first-generation graduating seniors, based on the Fight for Equity Book sales, during the June graduation ceremony.

Meeting Adjourned 7:20pm