

**DISCOVERY CHARTER SCHOOL**

**Board Workshop Meeting Minutes**

**November 15, 2012**

A Board of Trustees Workshop Meeting was held on November 15, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. at Bishop Kearney High School; 125 Kings Highway South: Rochester, New York.

**Trustees Present:** Betsy Archibald; Daniel Aureli; Donna Dedee Doyle; Barthelemy Koumassou; Joseph Martino; Delmonize Smith; Ferris Todd; Sara Varhus; David Vigen

**Trustees Excused:** Grace Tillinghast

**Also Present:** Patti Anderson, State Education Department; Valerie Nolan, Chameleon Community Schools Project; Steven Polowitz, Attorney; Joseph Saia, Director

**1. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and it was determined that a lawful quorum was present.

**2. Proof of Public Notice of Meeting**

Public Notice was provided in the Messenger Post.

**3. School Expansion**

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss whether or not the school should attempt to expand beyond its currently authorized grade levels of K-6.

Information contained in material distributed before the meeting was reviewed, specifically:

- A summary of previous school expansion discussions, facts regarding Tapestry Charter School (Buffalo), a K-12 school, and facts surrounding the number of NY charter schools that contain upper grade levels.

- A detailed spreadsheet highlighting Tapestry's student count, financial results, and building configuration. It was highlighted that there are 52 students in K-8 grades and 82-84 students in 9-12 grades. Further it was noted that lower grades financially subsidize upper grades.
- A detailed schedule of NY K-12 charter schools and summaries, by locale, of 9-12 and 5,6,7-12 charter schools. It was highlighted that there are only 8 K-12 charter schools in the state, with 3 of them in Buffalo.

Many thoughts were expressed about potential expansion of Discovery Charter School. A great number of them reflected uncertainty that expansion could be done in a manner to ensure academic and financial success. However, one issue of significance was resolved after much discussion: *the board determined that it aspires to have a K-12 school*. Of equal significance, the board readily concluded that it does not know how to expand to K-12 in a successful manner, that there are multiple issues that must be addressed, and that it is ready to begin the process of investigating those issues. It was emphasized that no one felt a decision to expand to K-12 had been made, rather an aspiration had been agreed upon and exploration of issues surrounding it will help the board decide whether to seek SED approval to expand or not.

Mr. Smith volunteered to help schedule another workshop meeting of the board during an upcoming Saturday. Trustees were asked to respond to Mr. Smith's doodle software by Saturday 11/17.

#### **4. Adjournment**

The Workshop Meeting was adjourned at 5:55 pm.