

BOT Meeting Thursday October 23, 2025 Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Sander, Sean Blackwell, Thomas Gorrell, Ted Francavilla, Lucas Doe

Administrators in attendance: Norma Hurwitz, Eddie Kubina

Not in Attendance: Christopher Brignola, Robert Ansbro

Meeting Called to Order by Jim Sander 6:36 pm

I. Approval of Minutes

Ted motioned to approve the minutes, Thomas seconds, all in favor

II. High School

Essentially, we are looking at the high school proposal and trying to bring into action what we have looked to accomplish. It is a challenge, but we are starting to put things into place and going over the proposal. The key is to have a full program where we are using advisory as a way to see how the ninth graders are handling the school as it is. They know what they want, they might not get it, but they know what they want. We are moving in the right direction. Everything will become more fleshed out as we add more grades. We are looking into the College Now program and we are following through with the application process. Our program is in sync.

We have discussed what jobs are available for them right now. We have gone over budgeting, managing finances, and growing wealth. We have also gotten a general sense of how students are feeling about school. We offer assistance with academics. Students will take their exams next week. We will spend time going over their exams and what they struggle with and relay the information back to their teachers.

We meet twice a week for 45 minute periods. We are preparing them for career opportunities, we will be giving them clarity on what colleges offer. We see from the application that we can choose one school. They will consider doing a second school. We are moving toward City College because they have a good medical program. They also have a wonderful English department. It is also reachable. We also have Baruch in mind. We are also looking to form a connection to offer students an internship. Most of the programs are intended for junior and senior year. They are competitive applications. So we will look to lend them a hand.

Woodlands High School developed an internship program, it is something that gives a good direction and could be a program that we can look at. It was done for seniors.

Ted is asking what the College Now program offers. They offer courses that students will be able to take in order to get familiar with different career paths. It gives them an opportunity to take college courses early without having to pay for them. The school applies to have a partnership and then students who are interested have the opportunity to attend.

The Bureau of Labor and Statistics gives information about what professions will be available in the future, it also gives the salaries, it can be useful for the growth prospect and if they will have to take a loan and what they will make to see if they go into that profession. It gives insight as to what jobs will be in high demand in the future, which can help students plan for which career path they would like to take.

Ninth grade assessments will be based on the curriculum. It will cover topics that would appear on the regents exams, but we will only include topics that are covered within the units for each period. They will be slightly different from the testing for the K-8 program.

We have to connect the content to the standards that the students need to reach. We have to work closely with the teachers in order to make it a reality. It is a goal that we are always aiming for.

The teachers enjoy working with the ninth graders, they say they are easy to work with. The setting of the new building helps. A lot of them act more mature than their age. It is a very collegial type of environment. They feel more respected and dignified. They are in an environment where they feel special. They are taken into account and their ideas are heard.

Parents have been positive about their feedback. They have shown that they are happy with the environment. When they come into the school with any concerns or looking for help, they are met with politeness and they receive help. We also have a security officer, we were assigned a nice lady who goes around the building and is developing a good bond with the students.

III. Committee Reports

Building: No updates. Most of the items that needed to be addressed have been. There are just a few left.

Finance: There is nothing new to report on finance. Paul does a good job of getting information to everyone. We decided to be conservative on the budget. It seems that we are getting more families coming to our school, especially in the upper grades.

Education: Students in grades K-8 are off to a good start. Our assessment period is this week, so grades will be in by next week. So far things are going as expected. There are some students who have a learning curve and will have lower test scores, but then we will analyze the data and make adjustments to help them improve. Overall the teachers are maintaining a good learning environment.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 pm.