

BOT Meeting Thursday July 9, 2026 Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Jim Sander, Thomas Gorrell, Robert Ansbro, Ted Francavilla, Lucas Doe

Administrators in attendance: Norma Hurwitz, Eddie Kubina

Not in Attendance: Sean Blackwell, Christopher Brignola

Meeting Called to Order by Jim Sander 6:34 pm

I. Approval of Minutes

Robert motions to approve the minutes, Ted seconds, all in favor

II. Professional Development

We are helping the new staff members to acclimate themselves to the school and the way we teach. They are having opportunities to work with senior staff members and also time to develop curriculum. Our two new math teachers are doing well. They are very enthusiastic about teaching and have a good level of energy. We also have a new music teacher for the elementary building. He is working out well. The teachers who will be teaching in new grades are getting time to develop the curriculum, especially for tenth grade. We are also preparing content for the fall PD. We will look to help staff better develop units and create engaging projects, activities, and experiments.

III. Recruitment

We have been having our OPS staff visit a variety of daycare centers. They have been making progress in getting extra students to enroll in our school. Our elementary staff has done well in keeping our students enrolled. They have gone out of their way to make sure that families are given assistance that is needed. We are advertising with Google. The ads are targeted toward people in the Bronx that are looking for schools. We give them keywords and they then match the ad to people who are searching for those words. We are also looking to get ad space on billboards. We are in conversation to get spaces that would be visible to people in our community.

IV. Regents Exams

We had 94% of our students passing ELA and 89% of our students passing each of the other exams, Earth Science, Algebra 1, and U.S. History. We were at the lower end of the passing scale for some exams, but we still are outperforming the schools that we are competing with. We will look to build on this and keep improving over time.

VI. Committee Reports

Building: Nothing new to report.

Finance: There is nothing new to report on.

Education: Nothing new to report.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:52 pm.