Minutes of a Meeting of the Charter Schools Committee of the Board of Trustees of the State University of New York held on Monday, March 4, 2019

Pursuant to notice of meeting duly given on February 15, 2019, the Charter Schools Committee of the State University of New York Board of Trustees met at the SUNY Global Center, 116 East 55th Street, New York, New York.

Committee Members Present:
Mr. Joseph Belluck, Chair
Mr. Eric Corngold
Mr. Edward Spiro
Dr. Merryl Tisch

Committee Members Absent:
Dr. Angelo Fatta (via video from a location not in notice)

Others Present:
Ms. Susie Miller Carello, Committee Liaison
Mr. Ralph Rossi, Committee Counsel

The Charter Schools Committee was called to order by Trustee Belluck at 1:02 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2019. The Committee actions are listed below:

A. Approval of Minutes

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes of its February 11, 2019 meeting without amendment upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold.

B. Committee Resolutions

Applications for Charter Renewal

Trustee Tisch joined the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

- Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate The Academy Charter School (Hempstead) (Resolution No. 10-2019).

Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:
Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate Bronx Charter School for Excellence (Bronx) (Resolution No. 11-2019).

Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate Brooklyn Prospect Charter School – CSD 15 (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 12-2019).

Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolutions as part of a consent agenda:

Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate Brownsville Collegiate Charter School (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 13-2019);

Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate Excellence Boys Charter School of Bedford Stuyvesant (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 14-2019); and

Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate Excellence Girls Charter School (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 15-2019).

Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

Approval of the Application for Renewal of Authority to Operate Manhattan Charter School (Manhattan) (Resolution No. 16-2019).

Applications for New Charters

The Committee Chair called for a motion to approve the first seven new charter applications on the meeting agenda, as ranked by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, as part of a consent agenda. Trustee Spiro made the motion, which was seconded by Trustee Corngold. Prior to Committee discussion and voting related to new charter applications, the Committee Chair invited three persons to speak in opposition to the KIPP Beyond Charter School application, including the president of Community Education Council 3 (“CEC 3”) in Manhattan, Kimberly Watkins, Genisha Metcalf, CEC 3 member, and a Panel for Educational Policy member, Dr. Shannon Waithe, who is a Community School District 3 parent. Thereafter, the Committee discussed the consent agenda resolutions with Trustee Tisch questioning changes in the benchmarks for scoring the applications. She said she was not in favor of giving more than one charter to any one entity (Zeta Charter Schools – New York City,) and that every applicant on the agenda should receive a charter. Trustee Tisch questioned how many new seats would be created by the approved applications as well as how many students with disabilities and English language learners would be served by the schools proposed to be approved. At the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Belluck called for a vote, and the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolutions in the order set forth below:
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- Approval of Proposal to Grant Amber Charter School the Authority to Operate an Additional Charter School, Amber Charter School III (Manhattan) (Resolution No. 17-2019);

- Approval of Proposal to Grant Family Life Academy Charter Schools the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, Family Life Academy Charter School IV (Bronx) (Resolution No. 18-2019);

- Approval of Proposal to Grant Zeta Charter Schools – New York City the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, Zeta Charter School – New York City 3 (Bronx) (Resolution No. 19-2019);

- Approval of Proposal to Grant Zeta Charter Schools – New York City the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, Zeta Charter School – New York City 4 (Bronx) (Resolution No. 20-2019);

- Approval of Proposal to Grant KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools II the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, KIPP Beyond Charter School (Manhattan) (Resolution No. 21-2019);

- Approval of Proposal to Grant Ascend Charter Schools the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, Brooklyn Ascend Charter School 6 (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 22-2019); and,

- Approval of Proposal to Grant Public Prep Charter School Academies the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, Girls Preparatory Charter School of the Bronx II (Bronx) (Resolution No. 23-2019).

The Committee Chair called for a motion to amend and approve new charter applications 8 -13 on the meeting agenda, as ranked by the SUNY Charter Schools Institute, as part of a consent agenda with the last resolved clause being struck from each resolution meaning the applications would not be sent to the New York State Board of Regents unless the Legislature made more charters available in New York City. Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolutions:

- Approval of Proposal to Grant Central Queens Academy Charter School the Authority to Operate One Additional Charter School, Central Queens Academy Charter School II (Queens) (Resolution No. 24-2019) (REVISED);

- Approval of Proposal to Establish MESA Charter Schools with the Authority to Operate Math, Engineering, and Science Academy (MESA) Charter High School 2 (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 25-2019) (REVISED);

- Approval of Proposal to Establish Kwenda Collegiate Girls Charter School (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 26-2019) (REVISED);
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- Approval of Proposal to Establish Bedford Stuyvesant New Beginnings Charter School 2 (Brooklyn) (Resolution No. 27-2019) (REVISED);

- Approval of Proposal to Establish Minisink Charter School (Manhattan) (Resolution No. 28-2019) (REVISED); and,

- Approval of Proposal to Establish Haven Charter High School (Bronx) (Resolution No. 29-2019) (REVISED).

Applications for Mergers

Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:


Upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to approve the following resolution:

- Approval of Revision to Merge KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools into KIPP NYC Public Charter Schools II (Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Bronx) (Resolution No. 31-2019).

C. Adjournment

At 2:34 p.m., upon motion by Trustee Spiro and second by Trustee Corngold, the Committee unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.