

APPROVED



## City on a Hill Charter Public School

### Minutes

#### December 2019 Board Meeting

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**Date and Time**

Monday December 9, 2019 at 5:00 PM

**Location**

City on a Hill - Dudley Square, 2179 Washington St, Roxbury, MA 02119

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**Trustees Present**

Andres Tejeda Soto, Cara Stillings-Candal, Jacqueline Bennett, Jeff Jablow, Karin Wall, Sarah Griffin

**Trustees Absent**

Gary Morton, Greg Vasey, Melisa Lemire

**Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened**

Karin Wall

**Ex Officio Members Present**

Kevin Taylor

**Non Voting Members Present**

Kevin Taylor

**Guests Present**

Elizabeth Dignan, Jackie Hayes, Jordan Lopez, Sonya Pratt

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## **I. Opening Items**

### **A. Record Attendance and Guests**

### **B. Call the Meeting to Order**

Cara Stillings-Candal called a meeting of the board of trustees of City on a Hill Charter Public School to order on Monday Dec 9, 2019 at 5:03 PM.

## **II. Public Comment**

### **A. Public Comment**

Cara Stillings-Candal, Chair, welcomed guests to a special meeting of the Board of Trustees and introduced the members of the Board. Stillings-Candal provided guests with an overview of the discussion and votes taken at the November 25 Board of Trustees meeting, which included both the decision to surrender the City on a Hill New Bedford charter and co-locate City on a Hill Circuit Street and City on a Hill Dudley Square effective January 2020.

Stillings-Candal announced that the Board of Trustees would open the floor for General Public Comment. City on a Hill students, families, teachers and community members made statements regarding their reactions to the proposed plan of co-locating the Boston schools. Additionally, members of the Boston Teachers Union (BTU) introduced an alternative plan (the "Separate Schools Plan"), which outlines an alternative to co-location.

Stillings-Candal thanked the speakers for their comments and reiterated the Board's commitment to building a stronger academic program for students.

Karin Wall arrived.

### **B. Break**

Following the Public Comment portion of the meeting, the Board announced a brief recess given the previous section was extended beyond its originally scheduled time. Cara Stillings-Candal, Chair, announced that the Board would return for the remainder of the agenda in twenty minutes and invited anyone who would like to remain to join the rest of the public meeting.

### **C. Vote to Affirm Co-Location**

Cara Stillings-Candal made a motion to affirm the directive that the City on a Hill Circuit Street ("Circuit Street") and City on a Hill Dudley Square ("Dudley Square") schools be co-located such that all ninth and tenth grade students shall attend class at Circuit Street, and all eleventh and twelfth grade students shall attend class at Dudley Square; and (ii) Kevin Taylor is authorized to make staffing changes and other related decisions at COAH

Circuit Street and COAH Dudley Square as he determines in his sole and exclusive discretion.

Karin Wall seconded the motion.

The Board considered the information, perspectives, and community impact shared by students, families, staff, the BTU, and community members during the public comment portion of the meeting.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Karin Wall	Aye
Greg Vasey	Absent
Jeff Jablow	Aye
Gary Morton	Absent
Andres Tejeda Soto	Aye
Cara Stillings-Candal	Aye
Sarah Griffin	Aye
Jacqueline Bennett	Aye
Melisa Lemire	Absent

**III. Board Complaint Investigation**

**A. Board Complaint Investigation**

Jackie Hayes, Chief of Staff & General Counsel, introduced a complaint against the charter of City on a Hill New Bedford. The complaint was made by a former employee and concerns the provision of special education services at City on a Hill New Bedford.

Following an overview of the process of investigation, including conducting an initial audit of the program with the Network Director of Specialized Services and interviews with staff, Hayes recommended the Board continues to monitor compliance with additional audits of the program through closure of the school in June 2020.

Cara Stillings-Candal made a motion to accept the recommendation of the City on a Hill Legal Team in regards to the investigation into the complaint against the charter of City on a Hill New Bedford.

Jeff Jablow seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

Karin Wall	Aye
Sarah Griffin	Aye
Andres Tejeda Soto	Aye
Jeff Jablow	Aye
Greg Vasey	Absent
Melisa Lemire	Absent
Jacqueline Bennett	Aye
Gary Morton	Absent
Cara Stillings-Candal	Aye

#### **IV. Closing Items**

##### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cara Stillings-Candal