

**Urban Science Academy
School Site Council (SSC) Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2016**

- I. Welcome & Agenda Overview
 - a. All members except Ms. Zabala were present.
 - b. Meeting began at 6:20pm and ended at 8:17pm
 - c. Mr. Bigby III read through the agenda and requested any other topics for discussion. Ms. Le had submitted an agenda item to discuss Partnerships and this was added.

- II. Review of December 17th Meeting Minutes
 - a. The previous meeting Minutes were read and there were no corrections.

- III. Partnerships
 - a. Ms. Le presented several Partnership requests to the SSC.
 - i. A Creative Writing Elective during 2nd semester. This will be shared and discussed further when a syllabus is received.
 - ii. Boston Partners- Tutors for Discreet Math 10th grade. One tutor is confirmed and we are applying to have more tutors come in to have one on one support.
 - iii. The Base – Tutoring, homework help, and an extra support system for students who play baseball and softball. Ms. Le will speak to WRA concerning what their experience has been with this program.
 - iv. OneGoal Model – This is a 3 year college success model we are trying to implement for the 2016-2017 academic year. Ms. Johnson has applied to be the OneGoal teacher for USA. Once Ms. Johnson is approved we will discuss the program and implementation further.

- IV. Review of Staff Dress Code Proposal
 - a. Mr. Sweeney presented the Professional Dress Guidelines. A few changes in wording were discussed and the final draft will be presented to SSC for approval in the next meeting February 4, 2016.

- V. Overview of Process to Consider Modifying USA's Science Program Sequence
 - a. SSC was provided some of the pros and cons of keeping and changing the Science Program Sequence. There has been a shift in Boston Public Schools to wait until the higher grades to teach Physics. The Science Team of Teachers will discuss and vote on this proposed change. Notes from these discussions will be shared with the SSC.

- VI. Discussion USA in Comparison to Other District Open Enrollment Schools
 - a. Mr. Cook presented some of the information gathered to show that USA has significantly better scores for MCAS and graduation than almost all other Non-Selective/Open Enrollment Boston Public High Schools over an extended period of time. SSC asked that some further information be gathered to prove the viability of USA. This information will be shared with the USA staff as their hard work is showing in these numbers.

- VII. Review and Approval of FY17 Budget
 - a. It was unanimously agreed upon that Mr. Cook did the best he could to meet the FY17 Budget.
 - i. Boston Public High Schools have a 12 million dollar deficit.
 - ii. Headmasters joined together to write a letter to Mayor Walsh in hopes of receiving additional funding.
 - b. The question was asked if fundraising is a possibility. It is and will be discussed in the next meeting February 4, 2016.
 - c. USA must begin to utilize all of the tools they have to get student, parent, and community support to help raise funds for the school. i.e.: emails, letters home, and phone calls.

- VIII. Upcoming Events
 - a. Science Fair –Week of January 18, 2016
 - i. Looking for speakers for the Science Career Panel Tuesday and Thursday 9-10 am
 - ii. Looking for parent judges
 - iii. Communication to families will be done

- IX. Proposed Agenda Items for the next meeting February 4, 2016
 - a. Fundraising Initiatives
 - b. Grant Writing
 - c. Senior Graduation Sash proposal
 - d. QSP update
 - e. Budget update
 - f. Professional Dress Guidelines proposal
 - g. Universal Tracking Document for groups raising funds for the school