



**Cardinal McCloskey Community Charter School
685 East 182nd Street, Bronx, NY 10457**

**Board of Trustees Board Meeting Agenda
May 4, 2021**

1.0 Call to Order

2.0 Attendance:

- a) Board Members
- b) CMCS Partners
- c) Guests

3.0 Sanctuary Community Meeting to be led by Phyllis Thorne.

4.0 Motion to approve today's agenda.

5.0 Motion to approve minutes of the April 6, 2021 Board Meeting

6.0 Chair Report

- 6.1 The Second Sanctuary: Social Responsibility
- 6.2 Update on lease negotiations
- 6.3 SUNY Visit
- 6.4 Review dashboard

7.0 Previous Meeting – Action Items

8.0 Principal's Report

9.0 Discussion

- 9.1 As needed

10.0 Motions

- 10.1 As needed

11.0 Proposed Executive Session (if necessary, subject to Board approval)

12.0 Action Item Following Executive Session, if necessary

13.0 Reports

- 13.1 Executive Committee Report
- 13.2 Academic/Sanctuary Committee Report
- 13.3 Finance Committee Report
- 13.4 Fundraising Committee Report



13.5 Ad Hoc Governance Committee

13.6 Partner's Report

14.0 Public Participation – N/A – Virtual meeting because of the pandemic

15.0 Action Items

16.0 Adjournment

Attachments:

Minutes of April 6, 2021 Board Meeting

The First Sanctuary Principle: Open Communication

Open communication is the bedrock of the work we perform as board members. Although it sounds easy, to me it is one of the most challenging of the seven Sanctuary principles.



Open communication is the first casualty to the trauma of sexual abuse, parental alcoholism, and the like. Secrecy, denial, and deception become the steely psychological shelters that victims crawl into for protection—an understandable coping mechanism, but sadly, it is our prison.

I, like many, do not listen well, but, with constant practice, I know I am getting better. If we practice listening, we can hear the true concerns of others, their trauma and pain. Open communication demands that we set aside our own thoughts and views, that we listen with clarity and freedom, and that we absorb. Understanding our own trauma, helps us in this effort.

Hold our thoughts and listen deeply! It demands that we respect the speaker and pay attention. I suggest that the ability to listen opens the path to a trusting environment that allows freer and honest communication where the speaker is valued as a person and not being judged. Even when a person expresses ideas, thoughts and personal invectives that are disagreeable or hateful that attack every belief we hold sacred, listening and being tolerant demonstrates our character, strength, and intelligence, and cements their trust.

It is the difference between asking 'what's wrong with you?' and "what happened to you?"

Open communication is a cornerstone of a successful organization. It allows us to work collaboratively towards common goals—the essence of board responsibility—and to handle difficult situations and correct the poor choices we make without blame. And, yes, despite our earnest efforts, even we will make mistakes. If we relentlessly work to improve our communication skills as a board, our work will permeate the entire school and, in turn, the larger community so we can all free ourselves from the false prisons of our own making.

So, let us listen and when we must speak, let us say what we mean and mean what we say.

George E. Grace