



**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**Location:** New Dawn Charter High School, 242 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, NY 11217

**Date:** Tuesday, November 20, 2018

**Time:** 2:30 pm.

**Present:** Mr. Ronald Tabano, Ms. Jane Sun, Dr. Phil Weitzman, Ms. Katharine Urbati

**Absent:** Mr. Les Winter, Ms. Darlene Anderson

**Staff Members/ Visitors Present:** Dr. Sara Asmussen, Dr. Lisa DiGaudio, Ms. Amanda Morton, Mr. Jose Obregon

Mr. Tabano called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. Mr. Tabano opened the meeting by confirming that this will be Dr. Phil Weitzman's last board meeting since he is relocating to London in the near future. Mr. Tabano thanked Dr. Weitzman for his excellent service while on the board and his commitment to providing the very best support to students at New Dawn Charter School.

**I. Resolution: October 2018 Board meeting minutes**

Dr. Asmussen reminded the board that inclusive in the October 2018 board minutes is the resolution to accept the new board member now present, Ms. Katherine Urbati.

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano motioned to approve the October 2018 minutes.

**Motion Seconded:** Dr. Phil Weitzman

**Board Vote:** Approved Unanimously

**II. Resolution New Board Member**

Mr. Ron Tabano reads motion to accept new board member Mr. Amit Bahl as follows:

**Motion:** The New Dawn Charter Schools Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, has voted to select Amit Bahl as a final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on June 30, 2019, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving Amit Bahl is formally adopted upon SED's approval.

**Motion Seconded:** Ms. Jane Sun

**Board Vote:** Approved Unanimously



### **III. NYU Steinhart School Participation**

Dr. Asmussen explained to the board that the NYU Steinhart School agreement is a non-binding contract to move forward and start investigating the acquisition of aspiring teachers. These aspiring teachers will be paid by New Dawn but at the same rate as our existing Aspiring Teachers, so the outlay is already included in the budget. These students will ultimately achieve their Master's degree in Education at the end of the program. The end state is that these aspiring teachers will become fully certified teachers. NYU will provide a professor that will be assigned to the aspiring teachers and will visit with them at one of the schools each month. After completion of the program, these newly certified teachers will be required to work with New Dawn Charter School for two (2) years. This agreement with NYU Steinhart School will also benefit New Dawn Carter School Queens. Five (5) aspiring teachers are required to start the program. Two aspiring teachers from the program will come to New Dawn Charter School and three (3) will go to Urban Dove Charter School. This will be the first time that NYU has agreed to split the aspiring teacher cohort between two schools.

Dr. Weitzman asked how NYU benefits from this program. Dr. Asmussen replied that NYU believes that Higher Education Departments are not educating teachers properly and that this program will benefit the teaching profession overall. Additionally, NYU is going to receive \$58K in tuition payments from students that participate in this graduate program. Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that partner schools that participate in the NYU Steinhart School program will get to select candidates through the host school's interview process. Mr. Tabano stated that the program sounds like a good program and that the program is in now in effect in Chicago and California.

### **IV. Visit by Regent Chin**

Dr. Asmussen informed the board that Regent Chin visited New Dawn Charter School in anticipation of the opening of New Dawn II in Jamaica, Queens. Regent was much pleased and impressed with her observations. Regent Chin discussed data with Dr. DiGaudio and supports New Dawn's approach to education. Dr. Asmussen further stated that, overall, the visit went extremely well.

### **V. Discussion of RASPA presentation**

Dr. Asmussen informed board members that she and Dr. DiGaudio were one of the presenters at the conference. Dr. Asmussen presented the graphs used for the presentation



depicting four year graduation rates, four year drop-out rates, ELA Pass rates, and Math Pass rates for all NYC Transfer schools. Both Wildcat and New Dawn score above other schools that are in good standing while both these schools are priority schools. Dr. Asmussen informed the board that at one time, there was an agreement between the state and city that only 10% of the transfer schools in NYC would be given a “priority or focus” classification. New Dawn Charter School and Wildcat Charter School are not at the bottom and are in fact at the top on several categories. It is also evident as depicted on the graphs that the three high performing schools are not transfer schools and are not expected to be classified as such. Dr. Asmussen further stated that New Dawn Charter School and JVL Wildcat Charter School have the lowest drop-out rates and that students remain in school, but usually do not finish in four (4) years like students in traditional schools. Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that New Dawn Charter School is a top performing school in ELA but that it still needs to work on its Math passing rates.

Dr. Weitzman asked what the consequences are if a school is classified as a “focus or priority” school. Dr. Asmussen replied that a school can be shut down if it remains in that category.

Mr. Tabano asked what other states do in regards to ESSA. Dr. Asmussen replied that other states believe that ESSA is should be used to support a school and not to punish schools that are working with the most at-risk populations. California is moving towards what New York city is doing with transfer schools and that there is supportive movement for transfer schools in other states.

Dr. Weitzman asked if there were any other exemptions granted for transfer schools. Dr. Asmussen replied that there is a waiver granted for a 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year graduation rate. Additionally, SED and SUNY are two of the authorizers that are part of the Federal CSP Grant that was awarded to a research group in Colorado to develop alternative accountability models for non-traditional schools.

**VI. Pro-Bono Contracts Signed**

Dr. Asmussen indicated that she will send Lawyers Alliance contracts out after the board meeting.

**VII. Finances**

Dr. Asmussen informed the board that facilities and operations expenses are up because of the income spent on purchasing the building. Dr. Weitzman stated that the New Dawn Charter School budget calls for maintaining a 335 student enrollment number. Dr.



Asmussen replied that the school is working to build the number up to 335 student enrollment number and she is projecting that number will eventually be achieved for the entire year. Currently there are 260 students enrolled according to Jupiter, but Dr. Asmussen expects that number will increase next billing cycle. Dr. Asmussen also indicated that Zeigler is not concerned about New Dawn's current enrollment number. Ms. Urbati asked what the \$1M dollar expenditure listed in the report was used for. Dr. Asmussen confirmed that that expenditure represents the down payment for the purchase of the building.

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano motioned to accept the monthly financials.

**Motion Seconded:** Dr. Phil Weitzman seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board unanimously voted.

Mr. Tabano remarked that Dr. Asmussen is working diligently with all parties concerned to make sure that the purchase of the building goes smoothly and that it is successful. Mr. Tabano expressed that Dr. Asmussen's efforts and results are impressive and that the purchase process is proceeding on schedule because of Dr. Asmussen's diligence.

## **VIII. School Updates**

### **a. NDCHS – Brooklyn**

- 1. Municipal Bonds.** Dr. Asmussen informed the board that the bond proponent is on schedule.
- 2. Architects.** The architects are waiting full cost forecasts, however, they remain on schedule. Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that the school has reached out to Ulbern Realty to determine if the existing roof is still under warranty. Mr. Tabano asked if the school knows who installed the existing roof and Dr. Asmussen replied, "no". Dr. Weitzman suggested that the school find out who took the permit to install the roof.
- 3. Owner's representative.** Dr. Asmussen informed the board that Mr. Tabano and she are speaking to one group and there are two new proposals out to different groups.
- 4. Potential new location.** Dr. Asmussen reminded the board that the school will need to vacate the 242 Hoyt Street building during renovation. A possible location at the Metro Tech Center in Brooklyn, NY. However, a letter of no objection must be acquired, but the current lease holder must apply for it. The space is at a very reasonable cost and there is 37K square feet available. Since it is not likely that the spaces available in



Queens will not be ready for the beginning of the new school year, a solution is to co-locate both schools, NDCS Brooklyn and NDCS Queens, in one location.

**b. NDCHS – Queens**

Facilities. Dr. Asmussen informed the board that NDCHS Queens continues to look for a third space. Additionally, Dr. Asmussen is talking to NY State about changing enrollment to include 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are 16 years or older. Allowing 8<sup>th</sup> graders to enroll will help NDCHS Queens with initial enrollment. Also, this temporary enrollment initiative would only be done for a year to make sure that enrollment numbers meet the enrollment target goal.

**2. New Business.**

Next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2018.

**IX. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano motioned to adjourn the board meeting.

**Motion Seconded:** Dr. Phil Weitzman seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board unanimously voted to adjourn at 4:30 P.M.

The next New Dawn Charter Schools Board Meeting will be held at 242 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, NY on Tuesday, December 18, 2018.