



## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

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

**Date:** October 24, 2017

**Time:** 2:30 pm.

**Board Members Present:** Mr. Ronald Tabano, Mr. Winterlie Winter, Mr. George Crowley, Ms. Darlene Anderson

**Proposed Board Member:** Ms. Jane Sun

**Board Members Absent:** Dr. Phillip Weitzman

**Staff Members/ Visitors Present:** Dr. Asmussen, Dr. DiGaudio, Mr. Jose Obregon

Mr. Tabano called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

### **I. Resolution – September Minutes**

Mr. Tabano presented the motion to approve the September 2017 board meeting minutes.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Crowley.

The Board members unanimously voted to accept the September 2017 minutes.

### **II. Building Purchase Update**

Mr. Paul T. Lamas of Roosevelt and Cross Inc. was given the floor to brief the board on three options for financing the purchase the building. Mr. Lamas explained the following:

Option 1 is a taxable commercial bank financing option at a ten year fixed rate of 4.70%. Option one is available at a 26 year loan term with a 25 year self-amortization. It is subject to a pre-payment penalty but can be re-financed after 10 years. The principal outstanding after 10 years will be approximately 12M. The loan requires a 6M down payment from NDCHS.

Option 2 is a tax-exempt bond financing option with a private bank also at a ten year fixed rate of 3.20%. Option two is available at a 26 year loan term with a 25 year self-amortization. It is subject to a pre-payment penalty but can be re-financed after 10 years. The principal outstanding after 10 years will be approximately 11.3 M. The loan requires a 6M down payment from NDCHS.



Option 3 is a tax-exempt bond financing option with institutional private placement at a ten year fixed rate of 6.00%. Option two is available at a 31 year loan term with a 30 year self-amortization. It does not carry a pre-payment penalty. The principal outstanding after 10 years will be approximately 17.8 M. The loan requires a 2.5M down payment from NDCHS.

Mr. Winter asked Mr. Lamas which financing option he recommends to the board. Mr. Lamas indicated that if the school was able to place a 6M down payment, sustain monthly mortgage payments, and maintain financial solvency he would recommend Option 2. Option 2 is financed at a lower interest rate and the principal outstanding after ten years was the lowest of the three financing options.

Mr. Tabano and Dr. Asmussen confirmed that the school has the cash on hand to place a 6M down payment. Mr. Lamas indicated that he would proceed to seek out banks that would be interested in financing the building purchase.

### **III. Financials**

- a. Vanguard Report – Jose Obregon asked the board if the school may proceed to transfer existing cash revenue into the Vanguard Fund.

Mr. Tabano presented the motion to approve the transfer existing cash revenue into the Vanguard Fund.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Crowley

The board members unanimously voted to approve the transfer existing cash revenue into the Vanguard Fund.

- b. Mr. Crowley commented that the school was showing understaffing in the non-pedagogical lines of the finance report. Dr. Asmussen indicated that new staff was hired mostly in September 2017 and this accounted for lower expenditures for this report.
- c. Mr. Crowley also indicated that we should start to see a higher matching contribution to the school 403B plan.
- d. Mr. Crowley also observed that auditors had questions about the school reserve fund.



Mr. Tabano reminded the board that there were no major findings in the school financial audit report and that the audit was clean. Mr. Tabano also encouraged the school to obtain the 5-year renewal certificate with the New York State seal for future reference.

Mr. Tabano presented the motion to approve the Schall & Ashenfarb annual school financial audit report.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Crowley.

The Board members unanimously voted to accept the Schall & Ashenfarb annual school financial audit report.

#### **IV. School Update**

Dr. DiGaudio reported that New Dawn Charter High School's Regents pass rates which are still embargoed by the NYSED. Mr. Winter asked how the school was doing in comparison to other transfer schools and Dr. DiGaudio confirmed that New Dawn has improved significantly compared to school year 2016-2017 and was out-performing other schools.

Dr. Asmussen explained that prerequisites for students to take the NYS Regents at New Dawn was not based on the student's grade, but on the student's completion of the required courses to assure passing.

In respect to student find, Dr. Asmussen indicated that the school has a new method to ascertain where a student maybe in terms of IEPs, ELLS, or other special need services. Dr. A indicated that enrollment rate remains steady since there were new students enrolled in October 2017 but approximately the same number were discharged.

Dr Asmussen also reminded the board that the school has approximately 40% of the enrolled student population that is classified as SPED. Dr. Asmussen also commented that the Regents pass rates were under counted because more than a third of the students with IEPs and as such are allowed to pass a Regents exam in the 55-64 score range. The State and City only consider students to be proficient if they obtain a score of 65 or higher. If by law the students are allowed to pass and graduate with a 55-64, we are growly undercounting our number of students who pass a Regents if 40% of the population is allowed to do this.

She also stated that the attendance rate is 69% for the entire school, 72% during A week, 77% during B week, and 49% during C week. Additionally, Dr. Asmussen stated that her staff has been actively involved in reaching out to students.



**V. Items for November Meeting**

None were presented during the meeting, but all Board members were reminded to send this items to Dr. Asmussen.

**VI. New Business**

The school grievance policy was presented to the board for review.

**VII. Adjournment**

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 3:34 PM and Executive session followed.

The next Board meeting will be held on November 28, 2017 at New Dawn Charter High School located at 242 Hoyt Street, Brookyn, NY 11217.