



Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Date: Tuesday December 18, 2017

Time: 2:30 pm.

Present: Mr. Ronald Tabano, Mr. Les Winter, Mr. George Crowley, Ms. Darlene Anderson, and Ms. Jane Sun

Absent: Dr. Philip Weitzman

Staff Members/ Visitors Present: Dr. Asmussen, Dr. Lisa Di Gaudio, Mr. Scott Mimnaugh, Ms. Amanda Morton, Ms. Dona Lobato, Ms. Jahdiya Semper, Mr. Thapa Sanman, Ms. Mariah Smith, Ms. Rasheeda Jackson, and Mr. Jose Obregon

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

I. Resolution – November 2017 Minutes

Mr. Tabano requested a motion to approve the November 2017 minutes.

Motion: Mr. Tabano moved to approve the November 2017 minutes.

Seconded: Mr. Crowley

Vote: Unanimous

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

II. Financials

Mr. Crowley asked several questions regarding revenue between this year and last year. Ms. Jackson Jackson clarified that the revenue as compared to invoicing.

Motion: Mr. Tabano presented the motion to approve the school financial report.

Seconded: Mr. Crowley.

Vote: Unanimous



III. Building Purchase Update

Dr. Asmussen reported that she and Mr. Tabano had met with bankers and we are now just waiting for a term sheet. Dr. Asmussen will forward the information once she receives it.

IV. School updates and outcomes

a. Pedagogy

Dr. Di Gaudio explained to the board that teachers were asked to provide projections of students who were expected to pass the State Regents. The students projected not to pass was not based on student academic performance, but based on student attendance and overall participation in school. Dr. Di Gaudio also stated that fostering student-teacher relationships is critical to enhancement of student academic performance. Dr. Di Gaudio also informed the board that base-line testing was administered to students to predict where the students are academically prior to taking the Regents exam. Dr. DiGaudio also mentioned that final pre-Regent assessments are completed in January.

Mr. Zach Flory spoke about Performance Plus, which is used to create assessments and track assessment indicators. Mr. Flory explained “SLO’s”, which are student learning objectives. Mr. Flory explained that in the past, the school used paper exams to assess student learning. However, these paper exams were inefficient, required much effort to grade, and often results were available too late to assist teachers in adjusting instruction. Perf Plus allows teachers to create assessments and scan results. Teachers are able to see results and then can adjust instruction to address student learning shortfalls.

Dr. DiGaudio informed the board that teachers can create their own individual assessments to meet the particular needs of their students and that each question is aligned to Regent Standards and appropriate course maps. All assessments are approved by Dr. DiGaudio or Ms. Morton.

Ms. Lobato explained to the board the passing rates for the school’s SPED student population. She reminded the board that the minimum passing grade for SPED students is 55% versus 65% for the general education student population. Notwithstanding, the school’s significant student numbers in the SPED population, the school performed very well compared to the latest school performance report card.

Ms. Morton explained the teacher evaluation system and how new teachers come in at a developmental level and progress in proficiency as student academic outcomes increase.



b. College and Career Readiness

Ms. Semper informed the board that the internship program is currently working with 7 work sites but the school has reached out to a total 17 sites for participation in the program. The school administered a work site survey and found that 70% of the 179 students in the internship program are participating successfully. Outreach to students and parents is underway to increase student participation percentages.

Ms. Semper also informed the board about the school's participation in the College Participation & College Access for All (CA4A) program. Ms. Semper informed the board that the school is having difficulties getting parents to submit documentation that supports FAFSA applications. Ms. Semper also discussed the College Now program that allowed students to take a college course this semester while still in high school. Mr. Tabano cautioned that students should be aware that if they fail a College Now course, it will affect their eligibility for financial aid in the future.

Mr. Obregon updated the board on senior committee work that included two fundraisers completed to date, plans for the senior trip and prom, and contracting for yearbook and graduation picture providers.

c. Social Emotional Learning (SEL)

Mr. Thapa provided the board an overview of the SEL survey that students took. He compared the schools data with the data collected from two other comparison groups. An SEL indicator that needs to be addressed is the level of stress experienced by students at New Dawn. New Dawn scored higher in this category compared to the other two groups. In the Connection indicator, New Dawn had a high percentage which indicates that there is a good student-teacher relationship in the school. In the motivation indicator, the school is low compared to other schools.

Ms. Morton explained the Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) program. She explained to the Board how Sun Bucks and Sun Slips initiative was being used successfully to encourage students to come to school early or on time.

Ms. Smith explained how the Anger Regression Training (ART) program and PBIS are used together to teach students replacements for non-acceptable behaviors.

Mr. Mimnaugh briefed the board about the NYS Mentoring Program and NDCHS Mentoring Program. He explained that staff received training on what mentors do and all



staff are certified NYS Mentors. Mr. Mimnaugh related the importance of mentoring in the creation of connections.

Connections can be made telephonically or in person. He also spoke about the school's meet and greet which allowed mentors and mentee to meet face to face and talk about student academic standing, academic requirements, career expectations, and general items that the student needed addressed.

V. Agenda Items for January meeting

There were no items but anyone having any business should contact Dr. Asmussen.

VI. New Business

- a. Dr. Asmussen An update was give on the school website and the search for a new vendor to update and ensure compliance.
- b. Dr. Asmussen also stated that she will get resolution on the open meeting law and will follow up with Dr. Phil Weitzman.

VII. Adjournments

Motion: Mr. Tabano moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 P.M.

Seconded: Mr. Crowley

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

The next board meeting will be held at New Dawn Charter High School at 2:30 P.M. on Tuesday, January 16, 2018.