

**New Dawn Charter High School
Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes**

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

Date: February 23, 2016

Time: 2:00pm

Board Members Present: George Crowley, Ronald Tabano, Leslie Winter, Phillip Weitzman

Board Members on Skype: Esosa Ogbana, Samir Souidi

Staff Members Present: Sara Asmussen, Fariza Badrieva, Lisa DiGaudio, Hyo Jin Kim, Michelle D. Millán, Dumar Paden, Mariah Smith

Meeting came to order at 2:07

I. Introduction of New Staff

a. Hyo Jin Kim – Math

Ms. Kim began with NDCHS on February 1st. She is from South Korea. She has taught at The International School in South Korea.

b. Fariza Badrieva – Art/Spanish

Ms. Badrieva began with NDCHS on February 1st. She is a first year teacher, certified in Visual Arts. She her Bachelor's Degree from the City College of New York and is in the process of applying to Brooklyn College for a Master's Degree in Art Education.,

II. Resolution: Minutes from January 26, 2016

Mr. Tabano asked the members if they read the minutes and if any changes are needed.

Motion: Dr. Weitzman motioned to accept the minutes as written.

Seconded: Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

III. Report on NYSED visits

a. Senior Deputy Commissioner (of Education Policy) Jhone Ebert

Dr. Asmussen wrote the commissioner to come visit the school. She replied that she would be sending Jhone Ebert to visit the school. She came to visit the school on February 3rd.

b. Assistant Commissioner (Office of Student Support Services) Renee Rider

Ms. Rider is in charge of the charter school office of NYSED.

c. Brooklyn Regent Kathleen Cashin

Discussions centered around getting into a waiver program, which goes to the fact New Dawn was identified as a priority school because all the NCLB waivers are null and void for the next year while shifting to ESSA.

IV. Appeal to NYSED about Identification as a Priority School

NDCHS is identified as a priority school, meaning the school is in the bottom 10% of all of the schools in New York State on a 4 year Regents pass rate. NDCHS did file an appeal because it is not the group of students the school is chartered to work with. In our original charter, a 6-year waiver was requested because we knew we would not do well in this group. NDCHS students pass their Regents exams well into their 5, 6 and 7 year of high school. They will let the school know tomorrow, 2/24/16, whether or not the appeal is accepted.

V. School Updates

a. Special Education/Child Find Update

The Board was updated on the status of special education.

b. Internship/Graduation/College Applications – Dumar Paden

The Internship Program has been working on re-training the students; there are 11 sessions. Students need to be able to master one level before moving on to the next. They have been doing work around mock interviews and resume training. They have also been training the students on the basics of looking someone in the eye, shaking hands and speaking in a professional manner.

Today, two students are participating in a community program in Red Hook. They are being interviewed by Barclay's Bank and the footage from the interview will be shown at a future Nets game during half-time.

Mr. Winter asked if any students have been hired by the company they have interned at and is the outcome of success being measured. Mr. Paden stated several students have been hired by their sites and that is one of the success outcomes they look at. Mr. Winter asked to see the list of measures that students are measured by when they're mastering their skills and what constitutes success.

Mr. Crowley asked what type of work skills the students receive. Mr. Paden stated that an area that they recognized as a weakness was computer based skills. The students are currently learning how to use the Microsoft Office Suite, including Word and Excel. The next step will be to teach them how to use formulas in spreadsheets. It is also important for students to sharpen their writing skills as they will be representing their sites by writing e-mails, etc.

Dr. Weitzman stated that this year an academic component was instated and he asked for clarification regarding how that works and what the results have been. Mr. Paden stated that students have been working on projects that are connected to content area and their internships. They have been working on their projects two days a week during their advisory class. Because this is a project that most students have not done during their academic career, they will need more time to complete the projects. Consultants have conducted classroom observations of the students working on their projects. Ms. DiGaudio stated that the consultants are the writers of the common core modules.

College NOW: CUNY decided to do an experimental program called College Focus. College Focus aims to prepare students to be ready to take the English entrance exam at CUNY. Students who have been accepted to college have been blindsided when they find out they have to take a placement exam in order to be considered college ready. Students can get away from this requirement in English if they have scored a 75 or more on their ELA Regent's Exam.

NDCHS had 12 graduates in January 2016. Out of those 12 students, 8 of those students have either applied to college or started. Five of these students have been accepted, but decided to defer their admissions to Fall 2016. Three students have started in the Spring semester. There are three students who are undecided and one student decided to go to the Marines.

c. Attendance Program – Mariah Smith

Prior to the break, the school struggled with low attendance. Over the break, Ms. Fields and Ms. Smith called all students who were in the system. For the past two days, attendance has risen by 100%.

Before the break, home visits were being conducted every week. Approximately 6 visits a week were being conducted. Letters were also being sent to students' homes. There are about 16 students who are incarcerated. Mr. Winter asked what was the level of their incarceration. This information is unknown until the student is released tells us when they return to school.

d. Regents Results – Lisa DiGaudio

A handout was distributed which outlined the proficiency for each subject since the school opened.

The second page of the handout shows the school's report card. The outcome numbers include both the 4-year cohort and the 5-year cohort. For the first time ever, they've included the still enrolled (the retention).

Dr. Weitzman stated that in the last meeting, a breakdown was requested of how many students were special ed and general ed.

e. Instructional Rounds – Lisa DiGaudio

Groups have conducted instructional rounds and visited presented units. Each cohort is led by a PLC certified person. In the instructional rounds that were conducted, they were able to identify different patterns of practice.

VI. Financial Report

Mr. Crowley asked about Title I money being zero. Dr. Asmussen stated that at the time, the school had not applied for it.

Mr. Crowley asked why specialty teacher monies are down. Dr. Asmussen will look into it. Mr. Crowley stated that consultants and personal development is also down. Dr. Asmussen stated that PICCS has been picking up the tab on personal development.

On the unaudited balance sheet, deferred revenue, deferred revenue should be half of what was recorded in December. Mr. Crowley clarified that the balance is listed below and it has something with rent.

Dr. Asmussen passed around several 1099s for the Board to Review.

Motion: Mr. Crowley motioned to accept the 1099s.

Seconded: Dr. Weitzman seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

VII. New Business

There was no new business.

VIII. Retirement Plan Presentation

a. 403(b) Retirement Plan Presentation – Bradford Baker and Joel Konigsberg

Joel Konigsberg and Brad Baker of Morgan Stanley presented their financial advisor services. There is no cost involved with their analysis of our current plan. Dr. Asmussen

will get them a copy of our current 403(b) plan for an analysis to see if they can provide better services.

b. Bond Package Development – Paul Lamas

Now that the school has a signed lease with an option to buy, Mr. Lamas informed us of the bond options. Different scenarios were discussed. Dr. Asmussen will follow up with the remain items for the final development of the packet.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Winter motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Mr. Crowley seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on March 22, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at New Dawn Charter High School.