



Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Date: March 21, 2016

Time: 2:46 p.m.

Present: Ron Tabano, Leslie Winter, Samir Souidi, Darlene Anderson

Board Members via video conference: George Crowley

Absent: Esosa Ogbahon, Dr. Philip Weitzman

Staff Members/ Visitors Present: Dr. Sara Asmussen, Donna Lobato, Dumar Paden, Melissa Wilson

I. Resolution: Minutes from February's meeting

Mr. Tabano asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes. Dr. Asmussen reported on the changes requested by Mr. Crowley. Mr. Tabano requested a motion to approve.

Motion: Ron Tabano moved to accept the February minutes as corrected.

Seconded: George Crowley

Vote: Unanimous

II. Principals Report

A. Regents Results

Dr. Asmussen reported that Dr. DiGaudio will be out for a total of three weeks with a broken elbow. She reported that Ms. Lobato has been acting as Principal during Dr. DiGaudio's absence.

A discussion was held about the necessary course work which must be completed in order to sit for a Regents exam. The ELA Common Core Regents is a "junior" level class and students are expected to have passed at least five ELA courses; Global is a "sophomore" level class and students must sit for all four semesters of Global; US History is a "junior" level class and students must sit for two semesters of History; ELA and Algebra are both "freshman" level courses and students must sit for two semesters in each subject prior to taking the exam. Even though January 2017 scores are still embargoed, there was an overall 48% increase in proficiency between this year and last year.



Board members requested that the data be presented as it had been in the past showing the number of students taking the exam, the number of students who passed the exam, and the percentage passing.

B. SPED Information

New Dawn has a 33% SPED population. This is compared to other transfer schools who have between 0% and 20% SPED populations. The NYSED does expect that we exceed the district average as well which is 7% for high schools in CSD 15.

III. College and Career Readiness Updates

A. Internship Program

Dumar Paden presented the Internship Program outcomes. Since beginning the program, 70% of the 398 students who have participated have been successful in the program. Completion is defined as the successful participation as measured by 65% or higher attendance, remaining on the site for the entire period, and an evaluation by the internship site coordinator. This evaluation includes looking student performance in training, completing their work assignments, and social adjustment at the work site.

Mr. Paden reported that recently new training measures had been implemented which includes mock interviews including rubrics with checklists which determines how successful the student was in training. Students and teachers both grade the student. The assessment is looking for growth from the time they started until they finished.

Mr. Paden reported that we have 47 internship partners in the program, includes: State Assemblyman Walter Mosley, Burlington Coat Factory, Sean Casey, Brooklyn Community Services, as well as many after school programs and hospitals/care centers.

Ms. Anderson suggested another couple of sites for internships if the school would like her to introduce them to the program. Mr. Paden requested she make the introductions.

A. College Program

All students are expected to complete the college application process by the time they graduate. Not all students do this, but every attempt is made to get all students to go through the process. Recently, under the fee waiver program through Mayor DeBlasio's office, even more students have applied to college. Not only did more apply, but more applied earlier than ever.



Mr. Paden further reported that there are 50 students scheduled to take the SAT on April 5 at the school during the school's first time hosting the SAT. Nation-wide there is a problem with students living in poverty not showing up to take the SAT. The hope is that by having the test at the school, students will show up in greater numbers.

Mr. Paden then reviewed the college attendance rates through Naviance system. Over 57% of our students are still in college after 6 months. This outperforms the national average for this demographic.

IV. Renewal Date

Dr. Asmussen reported that the school would be up for renewal at the May Board of Regents meeting. She further discussed the accountability framework which was developed with NYSED and Urban Dove. This report will be submitted to the Board once we hear back from NYSED that this is finalized. We hope everything will be finalized by the end of April.

V. Feasibility study

Mr. Tabano reported that there had been a meeting with the architects, land use attorney, and structural engineer prior to the Board meeting. The decision was made that they would begin meeting with the pre-construction consultant to cost out the different scenarios. We need to have this information to BuildNYC by May in time for the June meeting. There was a discussion around the new air conditioning unit that was put in. Dr. Asmussen will look into the costs of having the system installed.

VI. Financials

A. Monthly financials

Mr. Crowley reported that he was happy with the changes which were made from the last meeting with the accountant. He had no concerns or questions. Neither did anyone else.

B. Tax Returns

The 990's were presented and discussed. The Audit Committee recommended that the returns be approved with one change. Mr. Crowley asked why on page 3, question 12A was answered "no" when the answer was "yes" and the corresponding forms had been completed. Dr. Asmussen said she would check with the accountants and have that changed. With this change, Mr. Tabano requested a motion to accept the 990's.

Motion: Ron Tabano moved to approve the 990's.



Seconded: George Crowley
Vote: Unanimous

Mr. Crowley asked why there was so much money in the bank account for the school. This was explained that it was for the purchase of the building. Mr. Winter ask that a brokerage account be investigate where we can park the money for the time being. Dr. Asmussen asked for a motion for her to be able to look into this.

Motion: George Crowley moved to investigate Brokerage Houses.
Seconded: Darlene Anderson
Vote: Unanimous

VII. Year End Items

Dr. Asmussen reminded everyone that June is the annual meeting during which time Board members are nominated and voted upon. That said, she is planning on getting information to the Board by the end of April so that they can have the month to review and be ready to vote on items such as calendars, budget, incentives, and increases. Dr. Asmussen also stated she would like to give returning staff their contracts now so that people truly understand they are being invited back. Waiting until the end of June is not necessary this year, we are clear about what we need.

The Board requested that there be a presentation on the Mutual of American 401(b) plans and increases at the May meeting. The Board also requested information on how many staff will be getting incentives and increases. Dr. Asmussen responded that we would not be able to do increases until September once the August Regents results were in, but we could get an estimate on the incentives and we could extrapolate potential raises based on last year's results. The Board asked to see the templates for calculating the salary increases again. These will be sent out in the next month.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Tabano asked if there was any new business. Being none, Mr. Tabano requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: Darlene Anderson moved to adjourn the meeting.
Seconded: Les Winter
Vote: Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Next Meeting scheduled for 4/25/17 at 2:30pm.