

New Dawn Charter High School Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

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

Date: April 18, 2016

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Board Members Present: Ron Tabano, Phil Weitzman, George Crowley, Esosa Ogbahon, Samir Souidi

Board Members Absent: Les Winter

Quorum Present: Yes

Visitors: Sara Asmussen, Lisa DiGaudio, Eleni Salony, Lindsey Mihaljevic, Jessica Morales

The meeting was called to order at 2:36 p.m.

I. Resolution: Minutes from the March 22, 2016 meeting.

Mr. Tabano asked if everyone had the opportunity to review the minutes and then called for a motion to accept the March minutes.

Motion: Dr. Weitzman moved to approve the March minutes.

Seconded: Mr. Crowley

Vote: Unanimous

II. Three Year Visit Report

Dr. Asmussen reported on the NYSED Three Year Visit report. The various issues were discussed, particularly around the factual mistakes that were made. The changes which were implemented as a result were discussed: re-aligning the NYSED CDOS Learning Standards to each individual internship; having a certified teacher push in to the Advisories two days a week to teach writing and researching skills; and working on models of co-teaching. We are also having Eskolta conduct a "site visit" of the school.

III. Update on NYC DOE Quality Snapshots for Transfer Schools

Dr. Asmussen reported that they had been reviewing the data for this and that while the data is embargoed, the outcomes were going to be much better than what the NYSED is reporting. This information will be released in the next few weeks. At the time we will go back to NYC DOE and work on the appeal on our Title status.

IV. Charter Application Renewal

Dr. Asmussen reported that the renewal was due by August 1. The Board should be aware that there were going to be three policies that would need revision and review by the May

meeting and the June meeting at the very latest. The first was the Employee Handbook. This has already been vetted by ADP as part of the payroll package we purchased. The next would be the Board ByLaws. There has been a discrepancy between the NYSED reading of Ed Law and our attorney's reading of the law, but that this must be resolved prior to submission. Finally, our Discipline Policy had to be vetted by an attorney to insure that we are compliant with all Federal and State laws specifically as they apply to special populations.

V. DOE Mandates

Dr. Asmussen alerted the Board to the fact that we had to have the water in the building checked as well as having an asbestos review. We will be conducting these over the next few months.

VI. Proposal by Insurance Sub-Committee

Ms.'s Mihaljevic, Salony, and Morales presented the suggestions for ways in which teacher/staff contracts could be revised. This was something for the Board to take under consideration for the May meeting. The Board thanked the Committee for their excellent presentation and asked that the points be written out and submitted prior to the next meeting.

VII. School Updates

a. Child Find and SPED Updates

There are 125 students with IEPs currently enrolled in the school, five of the 12 students who graduated in February had IEPs. Since the last meeting, seven annual reviews have been completed with CSE; 10 Triennials were completed; eight more Triennials will be done this week. Four new enrollees were found to have IEPs, one referral to CSE has been made and another is in process.

b. Testing

Ms. DiGaudio explained that we are entering the testing season. NYSESLAT began last week and will continue through next week. New Dawn had been chosen to field test two Regents this year: Living Environment and US History. These are Regents that students must take but do not count towards anything, they are simply field tests. The Integrated Algebra Regents will be given on June 1 and the rest of the Regents will be administered mid-June.

c. Update on Senior Activities

Senior activities have been scheduled. Graduation will be held at LIU on June 23. The prom will again take place on the Spirit Cruises on June 5. To date, the Senior Trip has been cancelled due to lack of payment. The Senior Committee is looking into doing a much less expensive one day trip to an amusement park instead.

VIII. Finances

a. Monthly Financial

The monthly finances were reviewed. Digant Bahl, our external accountant, will be present at the May meeting to review any changes or modifications. Mr. Crowley asked if the five-year budget had been redone with the changes he had requested. This budget will be presented again before the May meeting and then voted on either in May or in June in preparation for the submission of the Annual Report.

b. Resolution: Taxes

The 990 had been distributed to the Financial Committee prior to the meeting. Mr. Crowley had identified eight areas of concern. These had been presented to the CPA firm for revisions. Mr. Crowley further clarified his position. Mr. Tabano requested a motion to approve the 990 for submission with the eight concerns resolved.

Motion: Mr. Crowley moved to approve and submit the 2014 990 with the corrections.

Seconded: Dr. Weitzman

Vote: Unanimous

c. Insurance Updates

Dr. Asmussen alerted the Board to the fact there would be a change in insurance this coming year around head injuries. This is not expected to impact the school since we do not have impact sports such as football. Dr. Asmussen is updating all the information in order to get the policies by the May meeting.

Mr. Tabano requested that Dr. Asmussen follow up with the 403(b) meeting held two months ago and report back to the Board.

IX. New Business

Mr. Tabano asked if there was any new business, there was not, so he requested a motion to end the meeting and move to the Executive Session.

Motion: Mr. Tabano moved to end the meeting and move to Executive Session.

Seconded: Dr. Weitzman

Vote: Unanimous

X. Executive Session

a. Staffing

b. Building

XI. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Tabano moved to end the Executive Session and adjourn the meeting.

Seconded: Mr. Crowley

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14 p.m. The next meeting will be held at New Dawn at 2:30 on May 24, 2016.