



## **Board of Trustees Meeting**

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

**Date:** February 28, 2016

**Time:** 2:32 p.m.

**Present:** Ron Tabano, Samir Souidi, Darlene Anderson

**Board Members via video conference:** George Crowley

**Absent:** Leslie Winter, Dr. Philip Weitzman, Esosa Ogbahon

**Staff Members/ Visitors Present:** Dr. Sara Asmussen, Dr. Lisa DiGaudio,  
Melissa Wilson, Rasheeda Jackson, Digant Bahl

### **I. Resolution: Minutes from January's meeting**

Mr. Tabano asked if everyone had received the Board minutes and if there were any changes. Being none, Mr. Tabano asked for a resolution.

**Motion:** Ron Tabano moved to accept the minutes as written

**Seconded:** George Crowley

**Vote:** Unanimous

### **II. Financials**

Digant Bahl and Rasheeda Jackson were both present to answer any questions about the monthly Board Financials. Mr. Crowley and Souidi had a number of questions about the budget concerning totals, audit totals, and net assets. Mr. Bahl explained how the budget reports were generated and clarified all questions. Mr. Souidi commented that he preferred the more detailed report. He also asked about the Title I money that had not yet been received. It was explained that NYSED is still reviewing our Consolidated Application but Dr. Asmussen reported that she had just heard from the Brooklyn office that they money had been approved although the contract had not been sent.

There were questions about the amount being spent on SPED teachers. Dr. Asmussen reported that we are actively looking for SPED teachers and we will continue to advertise for more. Right now all services are being covered with the staff we have but we would still like to hire at least one more person. There was a question about why another teaching line was so low. The teachers from last year were highly experience teachers and their replacements were first year teachers; therefore, the salary line was lower this year. Another question was around social workers and counselors. One individual took a



long-term leave of absence, but until we knew this we did not replace the position. We have now hired two additional counselors so this expense will increase. Further, we have hired yet another social worker through a grant through Wildcat.

### **III. School Updates**

#### **A. Regents Results**

Dr. DiGaudio reported that while the scores and results are embargoed, we had a very successful Regents season. Our new teachers did especially well. In the coming weeks we will be looking at the item analysis to determine our strengths and weaknesses, this will then be integrated into lesson planning and instruction. This semester one of our main goals was to improve stamina so that students were able to sit successfully for the exam.

A discussion was held about continuing to offer Earth Science. The problem that we run into is that students do not show up for the lab portion of the Regents exam. If you do not take the lab portion of the test there is no way you can pass the Regents. This is due to the fact the Lab portion of the test is actually held two weeks prior to Regents week and students do not take it seriously like they would a Regents exam. We continue to work on ways of communicating to students the absolute necessity of taking this portion of the test. Mr. Tabano suggested that we consider Chemistry for the coming year.

A discussion was held about how it is determined that a student is able to sit for a Regents exam. In the coming months Dr.'s DiGaudio and Asmussen will write up the format for this determination and present it to the Board.

### **IV. Discussion: Feasibility Study**

After discussions with Ann Tirschwell from Type A Projects has been volunteering to help us get our building project off the ground. During an Executive Committee meeting she explained the reason for doing a feasibility study. We currently have three potential options: building up, building out, or renovating the existing space with no growth. We need to know what each of the options might cost in order to move forward with the bond proposal. She did acknowledge that it would be slightly more expensive up front but it would answer all of our outstanding questions. Further, before moving forward, conducting a feasibility study would allow us to work together on a small project before moving forward on the renovation itself.

Mr. Tabano and Dr. Asmussen met with GKV and Taurino Management and all agreed that a feasibility study should be included. GKV said that the feasibility study was



included in the contract. Taurino Management revised their contract to only include the feasibility study.

The Board had a variety of questions that we cannot answer before the feasibility study is concluded. Things such as: would the existing structure be able to hold another floor; how much egress do we need from the back in the event we build out, etc. All these questions will be answer through the feasibility study and is the reason why we should conduct one. There were also programming questions such as: would the school have to move; when would the school be closed, etc. Again, these questions will all be resolved through the study.

Mr. Tabano asked if there were any other questions. Being none, he asked for two motions.

**Resolution: To hire GKV as our architects.**

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano moved that the school hire GKV Architects to begin the project.

**Seconded:** Samir Souidi

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Resolution: To hire Taurino Management.**

**Motion:** Mr. Tabano moved that we hire Taurino Management to be the pre-construction consultant to provide pricing on the feasibility study.

**Seconded:** Darlene Anderson

**Vote:** Unanimous

**V. New Business**

GKV will be asked to put together a timeline. Mr. Tabano reiterated what a great choice GKV was, just looking at their initial layout looks terrific. A discussion was held about the roof and the types of activities we will be able to conduct.

Being no other business before the Board, Mr. Tabano asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Motion:** Mr. Souidi moved to adjourn the meeting.

**Seconded:** George Crowley

**Vote:** Unanimous

**Meeting adjourned at 3:24p.**

**Next meeting scheduled for March 21, 2017 at 2:30 p.m.**