

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

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

**Date:** April 28, 2015

**Time:** 3:00 p.m.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Samir Souidi

**Staff Members Present:** Sara Asmussen, Lisa DiGaudio, Lindsey Mihaljevic, Michelle D. Millán, Scott Mimnaugh, Jessica Morales, Eleni Salony

Meeting came to order at 3:06pm. A quorum was present.

**I. Resolution: Minutes from March Meeting**

Mr. Tabano asked if everyone reviewed the minutes.

**Motion:** Dr. Weitzman motioned that the minutes be accepted as written.

**Second:** Mr. Crowley seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous.

**II. Assistant Principal's Report**

**a. Induction Program**

Mr. Mimnaugh presented on the Induction Program for new teachers. The program is an initiative through PICCS for novice teachers that will take place over two years. There are four main areas of focus: online learning, e-mentoring program, on-site program and school specific induction plan. This is a professional development opportunity for novice teachers.

Mr. Tabano asked how the mentors were selected. Mentors were chosen for the teachers, with the main focus being content area. Ms. Morales, Internship Coordinator, shared her experience. She stated that they communicate over text and through an online discussion group; Ms. Morales asks questions and the mentor shares information. As there are other mentors and mentees in the group, Ms. Morales stated that she receives feedback from all involved.

Mr. Winter asked if this is voluntary. Mr. Mimnaugh replied that the school participates voluntarily; however, all new teachers must participate.

- b. **Deeper Learning Task Force** – This is a comprehensive initiative to improve SIE (School Improvement Engine); NDCHS participates in this through PICCS. The end product is a student that has full knowledge of content and who has passed all their regents exams. NDCHS has a deeper learning task force which is, at the moment, comprised of administrative staff.

- c. **Basketball**

The team had a 10-10 regular season. The team made it to the play-offs and the semi-finals (the final four). The team was also involved in a spring tournament through Aspirations. Dr. Weitzman asked about the players' attendance and how they are doing academically. Mr. Mimnaugh stated that the team is aware that if they want to play, they have to attend school. At the end of the season, there were eight players, three of which were on the honor roll. Mr. Tabano stated that PSAL has a rule that you can't play on a team if you are failing two or more subjects.

- d. **Student Status**

NDCHS enrolled 40 students in February for the Spring 2015 semester and 12 students graduated. The school is still struggling with attendance; this was recently assigned to Mariah Smith (who is currently an Aspiring Teacher) who will be taking on this task for the rest of the semester. Ms. Smith will be sitting at the front desk, taking attendance and dealing with the cell phone issue with the security guards. The school's Free and Reduced lunch has decreased because of the newly enrolled students. The Parent Coordinator is currently working and getting those documents completed to submit.

Dr. Weitzman asked about the difference between students who attend College Now and students in college. Dr. Asmussen explained that College NOW is the course students take at NDCHS that prepares them to go to college, i.e., BMCC. Those students who pass College NOW may move onto BMCC and take an actual college course.

Dr. Weitzman requested that the actual number of students who take the regents exams be documented on the demographics.

### III. **Insurance Committee Presentation**

- a. **Introduction of Guests**

Committee members introduced themselves; Lindsey Mihaljevic, Eleni Salony, Jessica Morales and Michelle D. Millan. The committee has been talking to a few brokers and listening to the various plans they offer.

- b. **Presentation of Charter School Trust**

The first presenters had to cancel. This was a Trust where a bunch of charter schools came together under a 501(C)3 in order to shop around to get better healthcare.

However, it later came to light that if someone used too much of the healthcare, the school can later be kicked out of the trust. New York State has said this is illegal because it leaves sick people exposed.

**c. Presentation of Liaison**

Dion Rumsey, Liaison and Florence DiLeo, Maagi called in for a webinar. Liaison has been in existence for 8 years. The portal gives employees personalized, individualized recommendation for health insurance. According to Liaison's plan, the employee is given a budget by their employer and the employee shops around for a plan that best fits them.

Dr. Asmussen asked if there is a per person cost for this system on top of premiums. Mr. Rumsey stated that the typical cost is \$8.00 per employee month (\$96/year). This will give the employee access to the portal year round, not just during open enrollment.

Dr. Weitzman asked if Liaison handles COBRA benefits. Mr. Rumsey replied that due to the size of the company, they charge \$1.00 per eligible employee.

**d. Next steps**

The committee is also looking for the current broker, Magii to present at the next board meeting along with another new vendor, Little Bird.

**IV. Updated Facilities Report**

The timeline is being redone right now; the document hasn't been signed yet. NDCHS had a moving company come in yesterday to obtain a 3<sup>rd</sup> bid.

**V. Financial Report**

Mr. Bahl suggested that a Finance Committee be developed in order to have more detailed discussions and there should be 2-3 meetings conducted during the year. Mr. Crowley stated that there is a Finance Committee and they meet with the outside auditors. Mr. Crowley stated that he reviews the financials in depth and raises questions as needed.

**a. Finances**

The accountants are projecting a surplus at the end of the year. Most of the surplus that is being projected is due to the Special Ed revenue. Mr. Crowley asked why real estate taxes have a negative balance. Mr. Bahl stated that in year 1 & 2 real estate taxes were paid and we received a refund back this year. Dr. Asmussen stated that there was an abatement built into the lease and the landlord received an abatement from the City of New, therefore, the landlord sent back the money.

**b. Comparisons**

Dr. Asmussen asked if anyone had questions regarding the differentials/comparisons that she e-mailed. Dr. Asmussen stated that as an all inclusion school all textbooks are

grouped together because students learn together (general ed and special ed). Mr. Bahl stated that the state has asked for ratios to assure that money is allocated correctly, so he suggested that the school has this information just in case they ask.

**c. Resolution: 990**

Mr. Tabano noted that the school's address is incorrect on page 6 of the 990 taxes. Mr. Bahl stated that he would make the revision.

**Motion:** Mr. Crowley motioned to accept the 990 Returns (with the edit of the school address).

**Second:** Dr. Weitzman seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous

**VI. New Business**

Mr. Tabano asked for any new business. Dr. Weitzman would like the following put on the next agenda: increasing the board of trustees and modernizing the bylaws.

**VII. Adjournment**

Mr. Tabano requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**Motion:** Dr. Weitzman motioned to adjourn the meeting.

**Second:** Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

**Vote:** Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 4:42p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at New Dawn Charter High School.