



Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Date: November 22, 2016

Time: 2:36 p.m.

Present: Dr.Phil Weitzman, George Crowley, Leslie Winter, Samir Souidi

Board Members via video conference: Ron Tabano

Absent: Esosa Ogbahon

Staff Members/ Visitors Present: Darlene Anderson (proposed Board Member), Dr. Sara Asmussen, Melissa Wilson, Latasha Anderson, Sanman Thapa, Matt DiPaoli

I. Introduction of Proposed Board Member

Darlene Anderson was introduced as the proposed new Board member. She explained her history with New Dawn (parent, internship site, and now Board member).

Mr. Tabano welcomed Ms. Anderson.

II. Introduction of New Staff Members

Latasha Anderson, Sanman Thapa, Matt DiPaoli all introduced themselves to the Board and discussed their backgrounds.

Mr. Tabano welcomed all the new staff to New Dawn.

III. Resolution: Minutes from October Meeting

Mr. Tabano asked if everyone had had an opportunity to read the minutes and if there were any corrections. Being none, Mr. Tabano requested a motion to accept the minutes as written.

Motion: George Crowley

Seconded: Leslie Winter

Vote: Unanimous

IV. Financials

A. Annual Audit



The Audit Committee met with the auditors and voted to approve the audit. All other Board members were supplied with a copy of the audit and asked to respond electronically.

Mr. Tabano asked if anyone had any further questions about the audit, and if not, was there a motion to accept the audit.

Motion: Mr. Tabano motioned to accept the audit as presented.

Seconded: Leslie Winter

Vote: Unanimous

B. Monthly Financials

Mr. Tabano asked if there were any questions about the current financials. Mr. Crowley requested that he receive a hard copy of the financials delivered to his home (rather than sent electronically) prior to the Board meetings. This was agreed to.

Mr. Crowley also asked why there was such a discrepancy between what was spent on instructional staff last year in the months July through October and what was spent this year. It was explained that all teachers co-teach during the summer and that a number of teachers resigned effective July 1. They were not replaced until September. Further, one person had been out on leave. Dr. Asmussen will conduct a further investigation into this for the next meeting. Further, there are still two active openings. The assumption is that our teachers will carry over from year to year. However, this does not account for the amount of time needed to replace a staff person which is usually around a month. By the time a decision is made we are in summer Regents exam time and there is no need to hire anyone until September. Further, some more experienced staff were replaced with first year teachers this year. As of September we have one more teacher on staff than we did last year so we are fully covered.

There was also a discussion around teacher certification. Currently, you can have five, or 30% (whichever is smaller), of your staff as uncertified. Just recently, charter schools are now allowed this plus 10 additional teachers in STEM. To date, we have four uncertified teachers and one additional teacher in Science who is uncertified. Either way, we fall into the original category of 5 or 30%. All but two of these uncertified teachers are working on their certification.

Mr. Tabano asked if there were any other questions.

V. Building and Architects



A discussion was held about the presentations made at the last Board meeting. The references of all architects were checked. The references supported the feelings of the Board after the presentations. The main concern was having offices located in NYC and experience with the Department of Buildings and working in NYC construction.

The two finalist will be invited in to walk the building with Board members to outline their vision for the school. Mr. Winter suggested we reach out to a long-time associate of his and who is a specialist in pre-construction.

Dr. Asmussen will invite the two firms in to do walk throughs with the Board. This will be done before the next meeting.

VI. School Updates

A. Seminar Internship Paper

Ms. DiGaudio reported that the integration of the internship seminar paper into the curriculum is going very well this semester. One of our existing ELA teachers moved into this new position. As an ELA content certified teacher, he teaches the researching and writing for the papers. These papers then integrate with the internship in the community which the student is on by keeping it relative to the internship placement, backed by research and experience to content. The students are currently in the process of finding their research articles. Then, the papers are due at the end of the semester. We have the PCG group coming, who work with PICCS and Common Core Modules. So things are just moving in a really great direction.

B. Outcomes

Dr. Asmussen reported on the report requested by the Charter School Office at NYSED. Once submitted, the NYSED said that due to staffing changes, they no longer wanted data in this format but wanted it just focused on graduation, attendance, and at-risk status. This data is due in January.

C. NYC Transfer School Quality Snapshot

Dr. Asmussen reported on the NYC Transfer School Quality Snapshot. This year was very good. Unfortunately, our credit accumulation is incorrect on the NYC DOE ATS system so we are updating that information and the Snapshot will be updated in December with the good data.

We out-performed other transfer school in several areas. The other switch that was done was that both Wildcat and New Dawn are considered traditional high school and NOT transfer schools for the purpose of AYP status. So while we outperform the NYC



transfer schools, we underperform traditional high schools on the four-year graduation rate which is to be expected and is on the first page of New Dawn's charter application.

There was then a discussion about what the different percentages meant in terms of New Dawn outcomes compared to other schools. Dr. Asmussen explained what was meant by the four-year cohort. This Snapshot was based on the Cohort P (students who entered high school in 2009) and any Cohort O (students who entered high school in 2008) student who was deemed most at-risk based on number of credits, number of Regents passed, and age at entry to New Dawn NOT 9th grade which is what the four-year cohorts are based on. There were 129 students included in this year's analysis.

This moved into a discussion concerning what should be done with any surplus monies after the building is purchased. Dr. Asmussen presented a couple of ideas but it will have to wait until we lock down the costs of the new building.

VII. Updating Consolidated Application Budget

Dr. Asmussen explained that we used to always include all fringe benefits on the Consolidated Application budget; however, these benefits change depending on the employee. Therefore, the current budget will be changed. We will take out any health benefits, leaving SS only. The rest of the money will be put towards the purchase of the Math 180 program which is already partially funded through the grant and Board approved.

The Board requested that these changes be submitted to the Board for a Board vote prior to submission.

VIII. New Business

A discussion was held about how the students, all of who are students of color, several who are Muslims, and several who are undocumented, handling the results of the recent election. Dr. Asmussen reported that students were indeed stressed and that we were doing what we could to assure them that they were still safe at New Dawn.

At this point there really is no advocacy around any of the many issues this election raises but that we as a school should be focused on what is happening with ESSA, which may now be defunct. This may be New Dawn's opportunity to really advocate for fair accountability for students entering the school as freshmen in their 3rd, 4th, and 5th year of high school. The Board requested that the school keep them abreast of what is happening and if there is anything that the Board can do to help.



It was discussed that Mayor DiBlasio is taking a strong stance on protecting our more vulnerable groups of citizens and that the School should thank him for taking that stance whether or not we agree with his politics.

Dr. Weitzman requested that we return to presenting monthly enrollment outcomes at every meeting. Dr. Asmussen said she would reinstate this going forward. She further stated that we have enrolled 138 new students this year and that we have a 35% SPED population. Dr. Asmussen was asked whether or not the school will make its census as predicted this year, which we are on track to do right now.

IX. Adjournment

Mr. Tabano asked if there were any other comments, if not he requested a motion to adjourn.

Motion: George Crowley motioned to adjourn.

Seconded: Phil Weitzman

Vote: Unanimous

Meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held at New Dawn Charter High School, 242 Hoyt Street, on Tuesday, December 20, at 2:30 p.m.