

New Dawn Charter High School Board of Trustees Meeting

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

Date: December 1, 2015

Time: 1:00 p.m.

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

Board Members Absent: Esosa Ogbana, Samir Souidi

Staff Members Present: Sara Asmussen, Alex Lis-Perlis, Eleni Salony

Meeting came to order at 1:23 pm. A quorum was present with four out of six members present.

AGENDA

I. Welcome new employee

- a. Gale Dragone, 9th Grade SPED/Math Teacher – Ms. Dragone talked about her focus on student attendance as well as content mastery. Mr. Winter asked several follow-up questions about her pedagogy. Ms. Dragone elaborated on her philosophy and her teaching background. She will be collaborating a lot with the GenEd teachers of all subjects.

II. Board of Trustees Minutes

- a. Resolution: Minutes from October meeting

Motion Mr. Weisman motioned to accept the October Minutes.

Second: Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

III. Current IEP Student Status

- a. To date, 12 Annual Reviews have been completed, we are up to date. Three triennials have been completed and we have 21 to complete. There are three referrals and re-evaluations in process.

IV. Financial Report

- a. Finances ending October 2015 – Mr. Crowley questioned why the monthly and annual budgets are being compared that this is not a useful comparison. The more relevant comparison is this year's expenditures to last year's expenditures. Mr. Crowley also questioned the amount of fringe and why it was so different from the estimates. Dr. Asmussen says that overestimation on the proposed budget probably accounts for this, but she will be following-up. Dr. Asmussen stated that the IRS has told us we have overpaid them, but we have decided to ask them to not return the funds at this time. This information has been forwarded to the accountants for resolution.

V. Program Issues

- a. Enrollment and Student Status – Dr. Asmussen confirms SPED numbers have decreased a small amount from 37% to 34%. Mr. Winter asked about the math behind the enrollment numbers for September 2015. Mr. Tabano and Dr. Asmussen explained the math.

Dr. Asmussen also explained some of the challenges that NDCHS face in tracking students outcomes and creating accountability plans because enrollment occurs year-round. New Dawn has open enrollment and enrolls students throughout the year which makes a traditional tracking model difficult. Mr. Winter suggests adding an analysis to our reports to the state which shows the outcomes only for students who were enrolled by September of each year.

Mr. Tabano stated that because NCLB will be ending, the accountability plans will become even more important in determining the quality of a high school.

Mr. Weitzman asked how the low Math Regents scores are impacting the school's ability to graduate students. Dr. Asmussen acknowledged that not passing Algebra Regents does hold students back from graduating. Mr. Weitzman also asked how SPED students do specifically on the Math Regents. Dr. Asmussen answered that SPED students pass the Algebra Regents often at a higher rate than GenEd students. She also stated that Math teachers struggle more to convert their teaching style into Common Core frameworks than other disciplines. Mr. Winter noticed that larger sized classes generally had lower Regents passing rates.

- b. C week Competition – Attendance competition has been successful. C Week students are close to 80% attendance rates consistently.
- c. Internship/Advisory Integration – Dr. Asmussen stated that the new integration of certified ELA teachers into Advisory/Internship classes to teach Research and Writing skill-building has been successful. Curricula were developed by Ms. DiGaudio. Teachers have given positive feedback so far.

VI. Principal's Report

- a. Fund Raising – Fundraising event organized by Dumar Paden, Director of School Partnerships and College Readiness, funded 40 student applications to college.
- b. College Report – We hosted 14 students to take the PSAT on 10/14. Nine students have completed their college application. Twenty students are signed up to take the CUNY Placement Exam on 12/17. We hope to offer the SAT in the Spring.
- c. Peer Review – Dr. Asmussen reviewed the Professional Development focuses for staff the past two years. Ms. Salony spearheaded a peer-reflection initiative in a small-group format.

Ms. Salony reviewed the training received from NYU and the protocols used for the project. She passed out her portfolio for review.

Mr. Winter asked some follow-up questions about what takes place at NYU during the sessions and about where the funding comes from. Dr. Asmussen shared that the funding comes from PICCS.

At the school level for the Peer Review Project, each committee conducts peer observations and records observations in each of the members' classes. The committees will be meeting to review the data in the next stage of the projects. Mr. Winter asks how we can also track the effects of this project through student outcomes. Dr. Asmussen suggests using Regents scores to analyze the impact. This peer-observation project is taking place instead of weekly professional development with Ms. DiGaudio—teachers are modeling what we expect of students by taking of the professional development themselves and analyzing the work they are doing in their classes. Ms. Salony shared that this project has built trust and collaborative teaching practices amongst participating teachers. Teachers have also shared that this technique has raised rigor in their classrooms.

VII. Facilities Update

- a. Mr. Tabano asked for an update on facilities. Dr. Asmussen stated that we have not reached a final agreement with the owners because of holidays and scheduling conflicts. We are looking at renewing the same lease with the option to buy. Currently the conflict is over deciding who will pay for future large-scale repairs to HVAC and the elevator. Mr. Tabano and Dr. Asmussen believe the deal is close to being completed and predict that the Board will vote on it at the next meeting, date of which will be set once the Lease is ready for a vote. Mr. Winter stated we will need a super majority to pass the deal.

VIII. Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Tabano moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 and move into Executive Session.

Second: Mr. Crowley

Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was called back to order at 3:10 pm.

IX. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Tabano moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:20 and move into Executive Session.

Second: Mr. Crowley

Vote: Unanimous