

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

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

Date: June 17, 2014

Time: 3:00 p.m.

Present: Sara Asmussen, George Crowley, Lisa DiGaudio, Michelle D. Millán, Ronald Tabano, Leslie Winter, Phillip Weitzman (Skype), Digant Bahl (on telephone)

Absent: Samir Souidi

Meeting came to order at 3:05 p.m. A quorum was present

I. Resolution: Minutes from June 4, 2014 Meeting

Mr. Tabano asked if everyone was able to read the minutes and if anyone had anything else to add.

Mr. Crowley stated that the list the teacher's comments distributed during the last Board meeting should be attached to the minutes and be a matter of record. Mr. Tabano stated that the teachers did raise some questions and it should be a matter of record. Mr. Tabano requested that the document be attached to the last month's minutes.

Motion: Mr. Crowley motioned that the minutes be accepted as written, with the teacher's comments attached.

Second: Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

Mr. Crowley pointed out that during the last meeting the Board voted on building insurance policy waiting to hear back about \$0 deductible being changed to \$500 for Student Accidents. Dr. Asmussen contacted the company who stated that the school would pay more with the deductible in the event there was ever an instance. Mr. Crowley stated he was in favor accepting the insurance as originally presented.

II. Update on Collective Bargaining

Mr. Tabano stated that we received notice from PERB that the case was dismissed on their end because of the ruling that Hyde Leadership Academy brought before the NLRB. It is

now up to the UFT to bring the case to NLRB. Mr. Tabano stated that we will wait on the ruling of that and then we will proceed.

III. Facilities Update

Dr. Asmussen stated that there are several facilities issues under consideration:

1. **Building:** Dr. Asmussen reached out to the real estate company who are negotiating with the building owner now to see if NDCHS can get a fourth year renewal. They're pretty sure it will be approved; however, it will probably cost more money. The real estate company will handle those negotiations.
2. **Space:** still looking at the empty lot on 46th street. They also want to do the free and reduced affordable housing in addition to a school. There may be an option for NDCHS to buy the space down the road. The other options are Bishop Ford, which although they may sell it, the DOE has the first option to buy it. Our Lady of Perpetual Health is going to have space. The first issue is that we will be sharing in a basilica and the second issue is there's an elementary school already there. Dr. Asmussen will be spending the summer looking at the city owned Bush Terminal again.

Mr. Winter stated if using revenue bonds, this will be a long-term plan, which can be 8-10 months. It can also cost \$12-\$13 million to build out your own space.

IV. Financial Report

a. Board Pack

Mr. Crowley stated that item 14 of the budget, should be moved to restricted cash.

Mr. Winter asked where the accumulated money for relocation is listed in the budget. Mr. Crowley stated that the funds are in cash. Mr. Winter suggested that the reserved fund be separated. Mr. Winter stated that we should know how much of a reserved fund is needed and where we are. Mr. Bahl suggested that the funds be moved to a "Board designated reserve," in a separate bank account, so it's not with the regular operational funds.

Mr. Tabano stated that since the school needs to move and separate accounts due to the FDIC, a reserved account for relocation can be one of them. Mr. Crowley suggested that this needs to happen by June 30, 2014, or it will be written up in the financials.

Motion: Mr. Crowley motioned to accept the proposed budget.

Second: Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

V. Principal's Report

a. Update on Regents Exams

Ms. DiGaudio stated that the Regents tests are underway. The common core algebra and ELA tests were administered. NDCHS did cross-scoring with Urban Dove Charter School, who share the same cohort of students.

b. Resolution: School Calendar

Ms. DiGaudio pointed out that the school calendar is in the Board packets. Mr. Tabano stated that the calendar includes the required number of days and holidays.

Motion: Mr. Winter motioned to accept the proposed calendar for the 2014-2015 school year.

Second: Mr. Crowley seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous.

VI. New Business

Mr. Tabano asked if there was any new business to discuss. There was no new business.

VII. Adjournment

Motion: Mr. Crowley motioned to adjourn the meeting.

Second: Mr. Winter seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous

After the meeting was adjourned, Ms. Trakhtenberg stated there were a few issues she wanted to discuss. Ms. Trakhtenberg thanked the Board for the 2% that was given during the last meeting and asked when the 2% will go into effect. Dr. Asmussen stated that it will go into effect as on July 1, 2014.

Ms. Trakhtenberg also stated that she noticed that she did not receive the 2% raise from the 2013-2014 school year, but a 1.5% raise. She asked if the 2% would be retroactive. Dr. Asmussen stated that it would not be retroactive. Mr. Tabano clarified that a cost of living adjustment in the amount of 1.5% was approved for 2013-2014. Mr. Crowley stated that any increases are subject to the board's discretion and approval. Ms. Trakhtenberg stated that the advertisement for new employees and the employee handbook states that employees would receive a 2% raise. Mr. Tabano asked that she present that information to the Board, in writing.

Lastly, Ms. Trakhtenberg asked the Board to voluntarily recognize the union. Mr. Tabano stated the Board will follow its current course.

Mr. Matthew Linden addressed and thanked the Board and administration for the opportunity to work at New Dawn. He stated that he is one of the four teachers who are not returning. He stated that there are several things that need to be worked on. Mr. Linden stated that as a member of the community, he is worried that there are things being said and there is no follow through in regards to the job applications and contracts. He is also worried about the students who need consistency.

Meeting ended at 3:27 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. at New Dawn Charter High School.