



New Heights Board of Trustees
September 27th, 2022
Starting Time: 5:00pm
Location: 1690 Main Street
Brockton, MA 02301
Join Zoom Meeting

ZOOM Meeting:

Description:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8981912806?pwd=WHJ2dE1sTHNYVlVmNUsvTkxEdWlJZz09>

- I. Call to Order at 5:03pm
- II. Approved Board Members List
 - A. Mike Sullivan
 - B. Ollie Spears
 - C. Christina Alves
 - D. Graham Bengen
 - E. Judge Phillips
 - F. Vinnie Marturano
 - G. Emmanuel Daphnis
 - H. Steve Bernard
 - I. Nicholas Christ
 - J. Jeff Charnel
- III. Roll Call
 - A. Board Members Present
 1. Mike Sullivan
 2. Christina Alves
 3. Graham Bengen
 4. Judge Phillips
 5. Nicholas Christ
 6. Steve Bernard arrived 5:05pm
 7. Jeff Charnel arrived 5:08pm
 8. Emmanuel Daphnis arrived 5:09pm
 - B. Members Absent
 1. Ollie Spears
 2. Vinnie Marturano
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting from August 30, 2022
[BOT Agenda 8/30/22](#)
 - A. Moved by Nicholas Christ
 - B. Seconded by Judge Phillips
 1. Motion passed unanimously
 - C. Reports
 - D. Chairperson's Report (Mike Sullivan)
 - 1.
 - E. New Business



1. Audit Report (Daniel Dennis & Co)
 - a) Colleen D'Alfonso and Val presented a presentation of the audit results, went over the results in more detail with the Finance Committee.
 - (1) Independent Auditors' report - unmodified opinion
 - (2) Internal control of Financial Reporting and Compliance - no reportable instances of non-compliance
 - (3) Independent Auditors' Report on Compliance for Major Program - unmodified opinion on ESSER fund
 - (4) Status of Fiscal Year 2021 - no findings to follow up on
 - (5) Favorable result on all ratios reported to DESE
 - b) Finance Committee recommends to approve the audit as presented by Colleen D'Alfonso
 - c) Motion to accept the audit as presented by Judge Phillips
 - d) Seconded by Graham Bengen
 - e) Motion passed unanimously
 2. Post Issuance Compliance Procedures MassDev (Omari)
 - a) Should have been part of the approval process for the bond
 - b) Motion made to approve the procedures as written by Nick Christ
 - c) Seconded by Chris Alves
 - d) Motion passed unanimously
- F. Executive Director's Report (Omari Walker)
1. State Site Visit (Jess)
 - a) One-day State Accountability Visit on February 7, will include a board focus group
 - b) Seems typical for the state to come in during this point in the charter term, seems very straightforward right now but will know more 6 weeks before the visit and will put together a cheat sheet
 - (1) Judge Phillips - as a result of the previous visit are there any concerns that we should have in terms of the upcoming visit?
 - (a) Jess - Our last visit had no concerns
 - (2) Mike - Will someone send out an email to save the date?
 - (a) Omari - Will do
 2. Hiring Update (Will)
 - a) Filled substitute and EC ELA since last month
 - b) One substitute, 2 paras, and an EC Science position open
 - (1) interviews scheduled for this week in these positions



NEW HEIGHTS CHARTER SCHOOL of BROCKTON

- c) Pastor Manny - Do we have an idea of how charter schools are faring in terms of hiring?
 - (1) Omari - Meet with charter school leaders once a month, topic of recent meeting was some charter schools having 10+ teaching positions open. In really good shape due to retention planning last year
- d) Judge Phillips - any issues we need to think about in terms of next year?
 - (1) Omari - Good for teachers, will hopefully be in a place to look at non-teaching staff salaries in the next three years

3. Enrollment Update (Lourdes)

Current Enrolled Students by Grade (740 in TOTAL)

6 th Grade	107
7 th Grade	103
8 th Grade	113
9 th Grade	114
10 th Grade	124
11 th Grade	95
12 th Grade	84
13 th Grade (A+)	9

Current Student Enrollment by City:

Brockton	617
Randolph	50
Taunton	45
OOD	28

- a)
- b) Next Lottery will be September 30th
 - (1) 35 students applied since August 19
 - (2) 354 students are on the waiting list from grades 6-11
 - (a) Steve - is there a negative aspect in public perception to having a large waiting list and not be able to let them in?
 - (i) don't have the space or funding for any additional students, don't qualify to expand

4. MCAS Score Release (Sophia)

- a) Cannot yet share MCAS reports from past Spring until 12pm on Thursday when the state releases the data to public
- b) Are prepared to accept and own data
- c) Will report on the data next board meeting once the data is no longer embargoed

5. Current Political Landscape (Omari)

- a) MCPSA called a meeting to provide a picture of where charter schools might be headed
 - (1) Unsure of future support at the state executive level



- b) Is there support at the state legislature level?
 - (1) Unsure of this, generally legislature has been supportive of charter schools. Limitations on expansion and funding recently
- 6. MCPSA Webinar for Board Governance (Omari)
 - a) Recommend all board members login if possible
- 7. Custodial Services (Tim)
 - a) Served current cleaning company end of contract notice, will terminate contract on October 28
 - b) Two new options being debated
 - (1) hire 2 of our own custodians to work overnight
 - (2) hiring a new company
 - (a) Beberly who is approximately \$235k/year
 - (b) Jan Co promises 3 people for \$119k/year
 - (c) Sunshine Co with 5 people for \$90k/year
 - c) Wanted to make the board aware as if the new company doesn't work we will be coming back to request returning to the company that we used before at the higher rate
- 8. Door-to-Door transportation (Omari)
 - a) Legally required to provide transportation for transient students through McKinney Vento, costs are split with district the student resides in
 - b) Legally required to provide transportation for students who are recommended to receive it by special education
 - c) Currently pay \$475/day for 3 students and anticipate more becoming eligible for door-to-door transportation
- 9. Motion to accept report as present by Nick Christ
- 10. Seconded by Graham Bengen
- 11. Motion passed unanimously
- G. Old Business
 - 1. Evaluation Form for Staff (Maria)
 - a) [NHCSB Leadership Evaluation draft.docx](#)
 - b) To be used for all administrators excluding ED
 - c) Motion to approved form as presented by Graham Bengen
 - d) Seconded by Nick Christ
 - e) Motion passed unanimously
- V. Reports of Special Committees
 - A. Academic Excellence Committee (Pastor Manny)
 - 1. Chair
 - a) Still need a chair as Pastor Manny is stepping down after this meeting
 - (1) Steve Bernard nominated
 - (2) Seconded by Pastor Manny
 - (a) Steve will consider
 - 2. Data Dashboard (Nicolas)



- a) Tabled until the October meeting when the testing data is available
 - B. Finance Committee (Nick)
 - 1. YTD Finances
 - a) Surplus of \$12,000 currently but have a cash reserve of approximately \$1.8 million
 - (1) Cleanliness of the school is important
 - (2) Responsible for transportation through McKinney Vento, anticipating additional students needing these services which could increase the needed money in the budget
 - (a) Graham - can we shop around for this?
 - (i) Omari - can shop around but there are guidelines for who can transport students, these are the cheapest rates we have so far. Are exploring equipping our shuttle vans as school buses
 - b) The finance committee motions to provide the Executive Director with permission to use up to \$100,000 of reserve funds to support unanticipated transportation costs
 - (1) Omari - have cut as much from the budget as possible without taking services from students, may have to return to ask more
 - c) Motion by Graham Bengen
 - d) Seconded by Chris Alves
 - e) Motion passed unanimously
 - VI. Governance Committee (Vinnie)
 - 1.
 - VII. Special Orders
 - VIII. Good of the Order
 - A. Announcements
 - IX. Motion to adjourn by Judge Phillips
 - X. Seconded by Graham Bengen
 - A. Mike Sullivan (Aye)
 - B. Christina Alves (Aye)
 - C. Nicholas Christ (Aye)
 - D. Steve Bernard (Aye)
 - E. Jeff Charnel (Aye)
 - F. Emmanuel Daphnis (Aye)
- Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm