APPROVED

New Heights Academy Charter School

Minutes

Board of Trustees Meeting

Date and Time
Thursday November 21, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Location
1818 Amsterdam Avenue
New York, NY 10031

Trustees Present
A. Vasquez, D. Ortiz (remote), M. Vargas, N. Sunshine, N. Weiss, Q. McLain (remote)

Trustees Absent
None

Guests Present
Amryll Cummings, Crystal Joye, Fred Givens, K. Valbrun, L. Garcia, W. Ramos, William Council

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

A. Vasquez called a meeting of the board of trustees of New Heights Academy Charter School to order on Thursday Nov 21, 2024 at 7:10 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

A. Vasquez made a motion to approve the minutes from Board of Trustees Meeting on 10-24-24.
M. Vargas seconded the motion.
Quincy McLain abstains
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

D. Community Comments

Wendy Ramos shared upcoming school events:

- Report Cards: Emailed to families
- Thanksgiving Outreach Dinner:
  Date: Tuesday, November 26, 2024
  Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Thanksgiving Break:
  Dates: November 27–November 29, 2024
- Return to School:
  Date: Monday, December 2, 2024
- Parent-Teacher Conferences:
  Dates: December 11 & 12, 2024
- Family Meetings:
  Dates: December 12 & 16, 2024

Nikolas Weiss shared that we have an upcoming Scholastic Book Fair and asked the board to consider making a collective donation of $2,400 to support students who may not be able to afford books.

There was a robust discussion around this topic and the board agreed to table it until after the holidays.

II. State of the School

A. Academic Update

The Executive Director Updated included the following:

- One more vacancy to fill
- Staff Attendance Percentage
- Certifications for Staff
- Making financial adjustments for each department
  Student Council - Presentation on Vaping
- Charter Schools Unionizing (meeting held at Charter Center)
- Alumni Work

- Student Recruitment - Open House
- Staff Recruitment
- MAP Testing HS
- Haunted Heights and community outpouring

Crystal Joye shared the Middle School update:

Glows:

- Focused weekly walkthroughs have reinforced our strategic approach to providing individualized teacher support and delivering purposeful professional development.
- Consistent collaboration with Instructional Coaches has enhanced instructional practices and strengthened the facilitation of norms, resulting in measurable improvements in teaching and learning. Key examples include optimized blackboard configurations, clearly articulated objectives and standards, the integration of translated documents, and the implementation of dual-language instruction.
- Intervention classes are conducted four times per week and feature a structured approach that incorporates station-based learning and tiered supplementary materials. Resources utilized include IXL for Math, Math Facts, i-Ready (ELA/Math), NewsELA, and IXL ELA. These sessions emphasize small-group instruction and provide individualized 1:1 instructional supports to address diverse learner needs effectively.

Grows:

- Ongoing professional development through the Collaborative for Inclusive
- Education continues to strengthen instructional practices and enhance support for English Language Learners (ELLs) across all subject areas.
- Key initiatives include identifying and implementing instructional shifts in both literacy and mathematics.
- Additionally, a Wednesday Academy and after-school program will launch in December to address instructional gaps for identified students, providing targeted interventions to accelerate their progress.

- **Next Steps:**
  We will revisit and strengthen the integration of writing across the curriculum, utilizing the New York State (NYS) writing rubric and sharing exemplars to provide targeted support for our students.
- Following an in-depth analysis of Q1 data, we will identify students who would

benefit from additional interventions, including Wednesday Academy and after-school sessions. Instructional Coaches will begin developing a comprehensive scope and sequence for all subjects to ensure alignment and continuity.
- Furthermore, we will introduce students to the Computer-Based Testing (CBT) format in preparation for Q2 exams and mid-year assessments, fostering familiarity and readiness for this testing structure.

Fred Givens shared the High School update:

- Quarter 2 is scheduled to conclude on November 20.
- Internal Assessment (IA) results indicate that students are demonstrating positive progress and/or improvement within our humanities department. In 5 out of 6 English Language Arts (ELA) IAs, students outperformed their performance from Q1 of the previous year (2023). Additionally, students in our History Regents courses achieved higher scores in Global II and U.S. History compared to 2023.
- More than 90% of students successfully passed the Q1 IAs in English III and AP Psychology.
- Performance in Algebra I and Advanced Algebra was below expectations, with pass rates of 11% and 17%, respectively. Targeted additional support will be implemented to enhance instructional outcomes in these areas.

III. Finance Update

A. Enrollment & Finance

Li'Esha Garcia shared the financial update:

Revenue Under Budget

- Currently 32 kids under GenEd - ($609,408)
- Currently 18 kids under +60 - ($342,882)
- Currently 19 kids over 20-60 - $197,670
- Net - ($754,620)

Pursuing a Line of Credit
ERC Payment - Still Pending
Cashflow - Currently carrying 60 days on hand

IV. Other Business

A. Executive Session

A. Vasquez made a motion to go into Executive Session.
M. Vargas seconded the motion.
Discussion was regarding two potentian board candidates.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

Q. McLain	Abstain
D. Ortiz	Aye
A. Vasquez	Aye
M. Vargas	Aye
N. Weiss	Aye
N. Sunshine	Aye

B. Board Elections

A. Vasquez made a motion to add William Council as a trustee.
N. Sunshine seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

A. Vasquez	Aye
D. Ortiz	Aye
M. Vargas	Aye
Q. McLain	Abstain
N. Weiss	Aye
N. Sunshine	Aye

A. Vasquez made a motion to to add Amryll Cummings as a trustee.
M. Vargas seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

Roll Call

M. Vargas	Aye
N. Weiss	Aye
Q. McLain	Abstain
N. Sunshine	Aye
A. Vasquez	Aye
D. Ortiz	Aye

V. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Quincy McLain state this would be his last meeting after eight () years of service.

The board chair thanked him for his services and the other trustees wished him well.
A. Vasquez made a motion to adjoun the meeting.
D. Ortiz seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
W. Ramos