

APPROVED

# New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

## Minutes

### May Board Meeting

---

**Date and Time**

Tuesday May 30, 2023 at 5:00 PM

**Location**

1105 W Chestnut St

Brockton, MA 02301

OR

Zoom

---

New Heights Board of Trustees

May 30th, 2023

Starting Time: 5:00pm

Location: 1105 W Chestnut Street

Brockton, MA 02301

Join Zoom Meeting

**ZOOM Meeting:**

Description:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8981912806?pwd=WHJ2dE1sTHNYViVmNUsvTkxEaW1JZz09>

---

**Trustees Present**

D. Sauvignon (remote), G. Bengen (remote), G. Phillips, J. Charnel (remote), M. Sullivan (remote), N. Christ (remote), S. Bernard, S. Jackson, V. Marturano

**Trustees Absent**

None

**Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned**

N. Christ

---

**Ex Officio Members Present**

O. Walker

**Non Voting Members Present**

O. Walker

**Guests Present**

J. Vega (remote), K. Kendrick, M. Fernandes (remote), M. Tracey (remote), R. Bevis (remote), S. Graham (remote), W. Libby (remote)

---

**I. Opening Items**

**A. Call the Meeting to Order**

G. Phillips called a meeting of the board of trustees of New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees to order on Tuesday May 30, 2023 at 5:07 PM.

**B. Approved Board Members List**

**C. Roll Call**

**D. Reading and Approval of Minutes**

V. Marturano made a motion to approve the minutes from April Board Meeting on 05-09-23.

S. Bernard seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**II. Executive Director's Report**

**A. Enrollment/Lottery Report**

**B. State Site Visit Report**

- For the first time in history, have met all requirements.

N. Christ left at 5:20 PM.

**C. End of Year Events**

- Maria presented the end of year events calendar
  - June 7 6pm New Heights Graduation
  - June 9 5-8pm Multicultural Night

- Is there a mentorship program for new students?
  - Haven't been able to work that out with the college schedule but do a 2-3 orientation for incoming 6th graders

#### **D. Class of 2023 Recap**

- Maria presented a [recap of the class of 2023](#)

G. Bengen made a motion to accept Executive Director's report as presented.

D. Sauvignon seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **III. New Business**

#### **A. FY24 Org Chart**

- Will presented the organizational chart for the upcoming year
- Board requested to defer vote until next month
- Does the chart break down position or salary of the person?
  - No, can create a narrative of job descriptions for the next meeting with salary ranges

S. Bernard made a motion to defer discussion and vote on organizational chart until next meeting.

J. Charnel seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

#### **B. FY24 School Calendars**

- Maria presented FY24 calendars

G. Bengen made a motion to accept FY24 calendars.

J. Charnel seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### **IV. Academic Excellence Committee**

#### **A. Report**

- Committee met on Thursday and set a monthly calendar for upcoming meetings
- Previous presentations speak to academic excellence of New Heights and should be applauded
- Encouraged board members to be more involved in the understanding of academics and New Heights

- Instructional team will be doing a deep dive into the curriculum for the 2024-2025 school year and developing professional development
- No additional pathways will be added at MCC at this time

G. Phillips made a motion to accept Academic Excellence Committee report as presented.

G. Bengen seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **V. Finance Committee**

### **A. YTD Finances**

- Everything is inline at this time, nothing to report

### **B. FY24 Budget Approval**

- Proposing that revised budget be accepted as is, acknowledging that we will be reporting monthly and will anticipate some overages.
  - Did not change any revenue figures
  - Spending reduced by 3% - bulk from professional development
  - Be overly cautious the first half of the year on what expenses are necessary
- Steve - concerned about cuts in PD due to effect it could have on academic excellence
  - Amount of PD isn't being reduced but the way it will happen will be adjusted - more in house and less travel
- Important to understand that the board can't pass a budget in the red, these are the cuts that are needed to get it into the black.
- Jeff - no further reductions in staff in this budget?
  - Not since the previous meeting, no

V. Marturano made a motion to adopt the FY24 budget as presented by the Finance Committee.

S. Bernard seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **VI. Governance Committee**

### **A. Report**

- Vinnie suggested presenting some of report in Executive session due to discussion of personnel matters
- Meeting to discuss Omari's planned move into principal of grades 6-10. Discussion followed regarding Omari's expanded principal role and changes in that

G. Bengen made a motion to accept portion of report in open session.

S. Jackson seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## VII. Good of the Order

### A. Communications out to parents/staff regarding safety

- Toy guns in school
- Suspension policies for fighting in school
- Omari - want to get serious about school culture and ensuring that all staff and students feel safe coming to school. Current approach is not working so there needs to be a harder line taken as approved in the student handbook. This could be a finding in the future but we have to do this to get to where we want to be in our culture
- Judge Phillips volunteered to take the lead for any complaints that come to the board
- Is peer mediation an option?
  - Some schools see success with this but attempts we've tried have led to retaliation against the mediators. We do offer staff mediation
- Concerned that a 90 day suspension is the most that can happen to someone who brings a weapon to school. Does there need to be some sort of expulsion?
  - State has made it very difficult to expel a student and has very clear guidelines on what schools are able to do and when.
- Do we allow parents to attend public portion of board meeting to discuss what they're feeling? A lot can be diffused if parents have the chance to talk
  - Judge - would like to open up a forum for parents with a couple of board members to meet with families outside of meeting
  - We do post the information about the meeting 48 hours in advance due to open meeting law. Do hold a family forum biweekly
- Shelly questioned providing mediation as a chance to reduce suspension for lesser physical interactions
  - Currently doing a restorative model for lesser infractions but need to take the harder line for more physical interactions
- Would a resolution recognizing the situation help?
  - A letter was sent today clearly indicating a resolution to take a harder line stating board backing
- Board has confidence that Omari will address each situation individually to his best ability

V. Marturano made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

### Roll Call

J. Charnel Aye

G. Phillips Aye

**Roll Call**

V. Marturano Aye  
N. Christ Absent  
S. Bernard Aye  
D. Sauvignon Aye  
M. Sullivan Aye  
G. Bengen Aye  
S. Jackson Aye

**VIII. Closing Items**

**A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:48 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
M. Sullivan

---

**Documents used during the meeting**

- NHCSB Y7 Site Visit Report 2023 FINAL.pdf
- FY24 Proposed Org Charts.pdf
- EC2023-2024 School Calendar\_Draft .pdf
- 2023-2024 School Calendar\_Draft .pdf