APPROVED

New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday March 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM

Location
Zoom Link

New Heights Board of Trustees
Starting Time: 5:00pm
Location: 1105 W Chestnut Street
Brockton, MA 02301
Join Zoom Meeting

ZOOM Meeting:
Description:
Zoom

Trustees Present
G. Bengen (remote), G. Phillips, J. Charnel (remote), J. Radzevich (remote), M. Mollo, N. Christ (remote), S. Bernard, V. Marturano, W. Lyttle

Trustees Absent
G. Gibson Sheffield, S. Jackson

Ex Officio Members Present
O. Walker

Guests Present

G. Cubero-Diaz, J. Geier (remote), K. Kendrick, Kandace Sumner (remote), Luz Ocasio-Thomas (remote), M. Fernandes, M. Jean, Michalek Dennis (remote), N. Jones (remote), R. Lewis (remote), S. Graham (remote), Savina Pires (remote), Shana Cunningham (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 Mar 25, 2025 at 5:06 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 February meeting Board Meeting on 02-25-25.
S. Bernard seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
V. Marturano made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 02-11-25.
S. Bernard seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Executive Director's Report

A. Closing of Federal Department of Education

Update: Federal Department of Education Closure
Presented by OW

OW addressed concerns about the potential impact on DESE and Title I/III funding (~ $450,000). Current understanding is that funding may be reallocated, but no immediate impact is expected.

VM inquired if DESE made any comments; OW noted no updates as of the previous day. GP reminded OW to notify the Board of any forthcoming changes.

B. March Board Spotlights

Presented by SC, RL, and Dr. Sumner

- **Student Spotlight:** Jhouvens Delva (Grade 9), recognized for leadership development and academic focus.

- **Teacher Spotlight:** Dr. Kiven Dinyuy, Grade 10 Chemistry, acknowledged for resilience and excellence in teaching.
- **Staff Spotlight:** Janelle Watty, Restorative Practice Coordinator, celebrated for adaptability and leadership.
- **Department Spotlight:** 6th Grade Team recognized for setting the tone in cultivating an early college-going culture.

MM inquired if spotlight recipients are notified; confirmation was given.
GP suggested monthly Board recognition of spotlighted individuals.

III. Old Business (N/A)

A. Power School Lawsuit

Presented by DJG

DJG provided an overview of the breach, noting potential lawsuits.

- The school is monitoring developments and may consider legal action to recoup costs.
- DJG confirmed that NHCSB has cybersecurity insurance, but it involves associated costs.

Board Questions:

- SB: Is it worth joining the lawsuit?
- WL: Do we have cybersecurity insurance?
- GCD: What's the threshold for switching systems?
- MM: What are PowerSchool's obligations if they dissolve?

DJG advised forming a planning committee to begin exploring new SIS options and invited board members to participate.

IV. New Business (N/A)

A. NHCSB Graduation Requirements per New Competency Determination Law

Presented by RL
RL presented revised graduation requirements:

- 26 units with 60% minimum passing grade
- 100 hours of community service (25 per year)

Proposal: Board adoption of this policy to certify with MA DESE.
Discussion:

- NLC asked about baseline benchmarks if NHCSB had no Early College goals.
- OW affirmed the need for high standards and mentioned testing as a possible future recommendation.

S. Bernard made a motion to accept the upsize requirement for graduation at New Heights.
W. Lyttle seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. Academic Excellence Committee

A. Academic Excellence Report

Reported by SB

No meeting held this month, but enrollment data shared:

- Current Enrollment: 733 students (Brockton 631, Randolph 32, Taunton 24, OOD 26)
- 2025–2026 Applications: Total 408 across grades 6–11

Discussion:

- OW noted we're on track but emphasized September attendance's impact on Oct 1 numbers.
- VM asked for a Brockton enrollment update.
- OW clarified Randolph enrollment risks due to prorated tuition. NHCSB will not accept new Randolph students, while SSCS will.

GP asked if there's a threshold for concern. OW noted that the decision preserves the fiscal budget.

W. Lyttle made a motion to accept the abbreviated AEC Committee Report.
V. Marturano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Finance Committee Meeting

A. YTD Finances

Reported by NLC & SG

- Reviewed proposal to move $500,000 into a money-market account.
- Discussed the current Finance Policy and a potential update, to be presented at April's meeting.
- Discussed a draft policy to come from Central Source.

SB inquired about the need for policy updates. NLC stated updates are a management decision.

V. Marturano made a motion to move $500k into the money-market account.
S. Bernard seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
V. Marturano made a motion to accept Finance Report.
S. Bernard seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

J. Radzevich made a motion to adjourn March Board meeting.
N. Christ seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously 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 6:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
G. Phillips