

APPROVED

# New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

## Minutes

### Board Meeting

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#### 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](#)

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#### 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

#### Non Voting Members Present

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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)

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## **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