DRAFT

New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes

January AEC Comittee

Date and Time
Wednesday January 22, 2025 at 3:00 PM

Location
Melissa's Zoom

New Heights Board of Trustees
Starting Time: 3:00pm
Brockton, MA 02301
Join Zoom Meeting

ZOOM Meeting:
Description:
https://nhcsb-org.zoom.us/my/melissajean?pwd=MXlyUkhZa3QwYi9DQTdpWDNCaVpOUT09&omn=87317920362

Committee Members Present
J. Charnel (remote), S. Bernard (remote)

Committee Members Absent
G. Gibson Sheffield, S. Jackson

Ex Officio Members Present
O. Walker (remote)

Guests Present

Lourdes Pires (remote), M. Fernandes (remote), M. Jean (remote), N. Jones (remote), R. Lewis (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Bernard called a meeting of the Academic Excellence Committee of New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees to order on Wednesday Jan 22, 2025 at 3:15 PM.

II. Academic Excellence

A. Student Enrollment Update

Lourdes Pires presents on the Enrollment: we are currently enrolled at 734 students, with one sixth grader joining us on Monday the 27th and two more students hopefully coming in by end of next week.

6th-112
7th-114
8th-115
9th - 104
10th- 88
11th- 94
12th- 107

Brockton: 633
Randolph: 33
Taunton: 41
OOD: 27

Female: 365
Male: 370

Right now we 246 applicants that have applied to our school for the FY 26 school year. We hope to receive more applicants by the time we hold our lottery in March of 2025. Our recruitment efforts include holding an open house on Thursday, January 15th (62 prospective families showed up) and we will hold another on Saturday, January 25th - 42 families have RSVP'd.

We are still able to take in scholars for this CURRENT school year up until February 15th. Afterwards, our enrollment closes. Our funding is based on for enrollment on October 1st and then another re-adjustment takes place on February 15th.

JC asks if we get funded for any students over the 735 number? OW says no.

Why is that the "cap" number?
We are chartered for 735 students, it is the most we can get paid for. We did look at expansion but we will have to go through paperwork to charter more students. This also includes if Brockton goes into the low 10% percentile and we could take in almost 2000 students. Until that discussion open up, all seats in Brockton are locked down.

R. Lewis presents on the PACK skills and the alignment of introducing this to our 9th and 10th grade students while identifying key skills and knowledge.

-Setting Clear Expectations Early
-Identify Key Skills & knowledge
-Encourage the Development of Strong Study Skills - what does it mean to be a scholar

This is all for the advantage of when our students enter college classrooms AND TO ENSURE they are better prepared.

Why is this important? It is for Clarity & Communication
-More transparent process
-Quantitative Data - Grades, Accuplacer, Attendance, and Conduct
-Student self-assessments

Dr. Jones's vision for EC is to almost do-away with the idea of Dual Enrollment because all of our students are college-ready. It is to make sure that every student we're about to graduate isn't just taking college courses but they're also on a college campus. We're currently at 35% percent and would like to see this dropped at 25% to ultimately get to 0% of 11th and 12th graders left in the building.

For School Climate:

B. Early College Update

Fall Semester for EC

Interim EC Director - Krystel Love who has been overseeing the department - staff and students while on the MCC Canton Campus.

-While there has been some minor concerns, the MCC staff have been great with addressing concerns

-We are officially designated partners with BSU and credits will be reimbursed not only by DESE but will be transferable for credit purposes.

What were the challenges that took place on the MCC Campus?

It involved some classroom space for our staff and students and being mindful of the space we're allowed to use. Because MCC needs to reconcile their own challenge with space for their own population before they designate for us to use. It has since been resolved. There were some challenges with a staff employee at MCC amongst or students and MCC assisted in making sure we resolved the issue and others that came up after that.

SPRING SEMESTER:
-We have a lot more students enrolled in college classes. We have about 50 9th graders starting Speech Communications, 78 out of roughly 100 of our 10th grade Dual Enrollment students taking Speech Communication. There are 37 11th Graders who were deemed college ready but will be taking 1 college classes. 21 12th graders are taking one college-credit bearing course along with the rest of the high school courses.

-There are 117 11th and 12th grade Early College students taking classes on a college classes.
-BSU hold (27 in total) 16 of our 11th graders taking courses on their campus and 11 12th graders for this school year.

JC comments that this is unreasonable that MCC provide this program for our scholars but it doesn't seem solution able to have to go outside of what MCC is offering due to their shortcomings. OW responds about the main challenge being centered around capacity due to them expanding their EC and their enrollment is increasing but they don't have enough teaching staff to accommodate us. It does not appear that we are the priority we should be. It is difficult to add another partner at this time but we are exploring other options.

MF comments that continuously giving MCC information they will need ahead of time for course creation and a smooth enrollment process. The issue is also a financial challenge

due to the fact that our EC Grant can only cover courses being offered by our official designated college which is MCC.

There has been many EC provided by DESE - they are planning for a new revamped program where more funding will be available with a projection for 3M increase needed for FY 26 over FY25 with 1M earmarked for summer '25 Early College and Dual Enrollment programming. Our school will receive guidance soon.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

SB speaks on what presentations needs to be included to the next board meeting:

-Lourdes Pires Enrollment report but specific to the February 15th Goal
-Renee's PACK Skills
-Maria's EC updates
-Dr. Jones EC Vision

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Bernard