APPROVED

New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes

Board Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 5:00 PM

Location
ZOOM LINK

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

ZOOM Meeting:
Description:
LINK

Trustees Present
J. Charnel (remote), J. Radzevich (remote), L. Delgado (remote), S. Bernard, V. Marturano

Trustees Absent
G. Phillips, N. Christ, S. Jackson, W. Lyttle

Guests Present
Delroy Dennis, G. Cubero-Diaz, J. Geier, K. Kendrick, Laurie Casimir, Lourdes Pires, M. Fernandes, M. Jean, M. Mollo, R. Lewis (remote), S. Graham (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Call the Meeting to Order

S. Bernard called a meeting of the board of trustees of New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees to order on Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 5:04 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 Board Meeting on 03-31-26.
J. Charnel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Chairperson's Report

A. Recommendation for Board Officer Vacancy

Steve Bernard opens the discussion where Vinnie Marturano has been recommended as Vice Chair at the next meeting.

Steve revisits this discussion now that we have a forum (5:51pm) and calls for a board member to nominate Vinnie as Vice Chair.

BOT approves of Vinny Marturano as Vice Chair effective immediately.

S. Bernard made a motion to nominate Vinnie Marturano as Vice Chair.
J. Charnel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
J. Charnel made a motion to have Vinnie Marturano take the Vice Chair for NHCSB Board of Trustees.
J. Radzevich seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

III. Executive Director's Report

A. Important Upcoming Dates and Events

Omari provided updates on several upcoming school events and celebrations. At the request of Steve Bernard, discussion was limited to informational items that did not require board action due to the absence of a full quorum.

Omari announced the Lift Every Voice and Sing Black Graduation ceremony at Massachusetts Community College taking place on May 15. He also shared details regarding the MCC Commencement scheduled for May 21 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,

followed by the school's Fish Fry celebration. Omari reported that 30 seniors are currently on track to graduate with their Associate of Arts degrees and that approximately 50 percent of the graduating class will have earned 60 college credits through MCC. Board members interested in attending were encouraged to notify Omari so that tickets could be arranged.

Additionally, Omari announced the Senior Awards event scheduled for June 1 and encouraged board members to consider contributing to the Board of Trustees Scholarship presentation. He also shared that Bridgewater State University will host NHCSB's Commencement ceremony on June 3 at 5:00 p.m., during which 88 seniors are expected to graduate. Omari emphasized the importance of board member attendance at these events as a means of supporting students and strengthening connections with the graduating class.

The board also acknowledged a contribution made by Vinnie Marturano to the Friends of New Heights Foundation Scholarship Fund.

B. 2026 Prom Update

Laurie Casimir, Early College Dean and Head of Culture, provided an overview of the upcoming senior prom scheduled for May 28, 2026, at Venus de Milo. She shared that this year's theme, "Immersive Garden," is intended to create a floral atmosphere featuring lush and vibrant colors throughout the venue. Approximately 200 students are expected to attend the event. Laurie explained that the $150 senior dues covered prom admission costs for students, and ticket sales are scheduled to begin on Monday, May 11, continuing through the date of the event.

Laurie also noted that students will receive disposable cameras to capture personal memories throughout the evening. Event planning, décor, and related services are being coordinated through minority-owned businesses. In support of student safety and engagement, approximately 25 staff members will be present to provide supervision and assistance during the event. She further acknowledged the event sponsors, including BayCoast Bank, Mr. Walker, and the NHCSB Board.

IV. Old Business

A. Buildings and Ground Proposals

Delroy and Omari focused on discussing the PA system installation project, focusing on its functionality during active shooter scenarios, digital displays in classrooms, microphone capabilities for teachers, and compliance with regulations. Omari explained that the system would automatically contact police and continuously alert the school's status during emergencies. ProAdent Systems is the recommended vendor. Omari and Delroy Dennis provided details on the $183,000 cost and timeline. The installation would take approximately 3 weeks and aim for completion before September, pending hardware

delivery and rewiring within two weeks of signing the proposal. The board discussed reviewing the full scope of the project before making a funding decision. Jason inquired about certification, which Omari agreed to follow up on.

Omari reported that the administration had not initially intended to seek a board vote on the proposed facilities projects; however, following discussion during the Finance Committee meeting, Suzanne and Nick recommended exploring financing options rather than utilizing the school's existing cash reserves. As a result, action on the broader project proposal was postponed pending further research into alternative financing methods. The board did approve moving forward with the proposal subject to the Finance Committee's determination of an appropriate funding stream, with the amendment allowing the purchase order to be issued immediately pending funding approval.

J. Charnel made a motion to to give the Operations/IT department the opportunity to issue a PO to fund sound equipment installation.
V. Marturano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

V. New Business

A. 26-27 School Calendar

Renee Lewis reports on the 26-27 School Calendar:

The Board voted to accept the school calendar for the upcoming year, which starts August 31st, meeting the required number of days despite having 7 snow days this year.

S. Bernard made a motion to accept the FY27 School Calendar for both Main Street and Early. If there are any changes, we will need to re-vote.
J. Charnel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VI. Finance Committee

A. YTD (through March)

Suzanne gives the Board a report on YTD for March noting that revenues were currently at 73 percent and expenditures at 70 percent. She reported that the majority of expense categories were operating at or slightly below projected budget expectations. Jeff inquired about the management of grant funding, and Suzanne confirmed that all grants are being appropriately tracked and utilized in accordance with applicable requirements. She also noted that potential adjustments to Title I funding for after-school programming are currently pending approval from DESE.

V. Marturano made a motion to accept Suzanne's YTD March Report.
J. Charnel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

B. FY 27 Proposed Budget w/Narrative

VII. Academic Excellence Committee

A. Academic Excellence Report

Enrollment:
Lourdes reported that current enrollment stands at 727 students and provided detailed demographic breakdowns by grade level, municipality, and gender. She noted that although the school is projected to be over-enrolled at the start of September, the administration anticipates meeting the required enrollment capacity of 735 students by October through continued admissions from a waitlist currently consisting of nearly 200 students.

Current Numbers:
6: 115
7: 114
8: 114
9: 114
10: 99
11: 83
12: 88

355 females, and 372 males.

FY27 Enrollment
6: 115 seats offered
Waitlisted Grades
7: 37
8: 29
9: 91
10: 21
11: 18

2. **Grade Data Presentation**:
Kaitlin provided an overview of the State Accountability Report, explaining its categories, scoring methods, and how progress is measured against state targets. She noted that the report will be released in September, with data from the 2025-26 school year weighted at 60% and the 2024-25 school year at 40%. Omari thanked Kaitlin for her work and

mentioned academic achievements, including 44 students on track to earn 60+ credits and 30 students on track to earn associate's degrees.

3. **EC Credit Explanation, and Partnerships**:
Maria highlighted that 72 out of 88 seniors are earning at least 12 college credits, aligning with the goal of having 50% of students earn 60+ credits. She also provided an update on college and workforce partnerships as NHCSB finalizes an agreement with Stonehill College and currently working on a partnership with VOC-Tech.

Vinnie asks about our 88 students with 12 students who have earned 12 credits (4 college classes) Is that similar to other years?

Our goal is to have our students earn 12 credits or more and 72% of them have met that benchmark.

4. **MCAS Culture at NHCSB:**
Renee Lewis spoke about the school's efforts to foster a positive and supportive culture surrounding MCAS testing. She explained that the primary goal is to equip students with both the skills and mindset necessary to approach the examination process with confidence and success. As part of these efforts, students received gift bags containing snacks, motivational items, and encouraging messages from teachers and staff. Students also received MCAS-themed t-shirts, including both professionally produced shirts and designs created by students themselves.

Renee further reported that middle school students participated in an MCAS Pep Rally that featured speeches, motivational messages, and words of encouragement intended to build school spirit and promote student confidence ahead of testing.
J. Charnel made a motion to accept the Academic Excellence Committee Report.
V. Marturano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

VIII. Governance Committee

A. Executive Session

V. Marturano made a motion to enter Executive Session at 6:20pm.
J. Charnel seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.
Staffing and Contracts: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion
personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

- *Legal*
- *Employee Contractural Negotiations*
- *Vendor Contract Negotiation*

J. Radzevich made a motion to exit Executive Session.
V. Marturano seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

IX. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

Jeff Charnel informs the group of May being Haitian Heritage Month. There is a Flag Raising event on May 15th at City Hall in Brockton.

Omari also notes and invites members of the board to attend our Haitian Style Luncheon on May 18, 2026 at NHCSB.
There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Bernard