DRAFT

New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes

October AEC Meeting

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

Location
Zoom: https://nhcsb-org.zoom.us/j/71960947850?pwd=UVlZY1RtbU5IZmN2dVR1R2Z5R2VHQT09

New Heights
Academic Excellence Meeting
Join Zoom Meeting

ZOOM Meeting:
https://nhcsb-org.zoom.us/j/71960947850?pwd=UVlZY1RtbU5IZmN2dVR1R2Z5R2VHQT09

Committee Members Present
S. Bernard (remote)

Committee Members Absent
J. Charnel, S. Jackson

Ex Officio Members Present
O. Walker (remote)

Guests Present
G. Phillips (remote), K. Kendrick (remote), M. Fernandes (remote), M. Jean (remote), Mimi Tsiane (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 Oct 22, 2025 at 3:01 PM.

II. Academic Excellence

A. Enrollment

Presented by Lourdes Pires:

Currently Enrolled at 739 - Fully Enrolled by 4 additional students

6: 115
7: 114
8: 114
9: 116
10: 104
11: 86
12: 90

Brockton: 628
Randolph: 24
Taunton: 38
OOD: 19

Gender:
Female: 362
Male: 377

As of October 1st (prime day for enrollment snapshot) NHCSB was fully enrolled with a robust waitlist

Waitlist for SY25-26 will remain active until February 15, 2026 - this allows us to replace a seat if a current student is transferring out.

Questions:

Chair Phillips asks if we will "Foot the bill" for the additional 4 students enrolled at NHCSB- **Yes**.

B. Early College Update

Mimi Tsiane, our new Associate Principal in Early College, introduced herself and presented information on Dual Enrollment and our Early College students.

167 students (juniors and seniors) taking and attending college courses at both Massasoit Canton and Brockton Campus. This speaks to our mission that we prepare all students for college. Period.

Mimi lists the Dual Enrollment (57 students are taking) and Early College (105 students) courses

There are 14 students enrolled in college at Bridgewater State. Their schedules are individualized based on college requirements. We intentionally only enroll seniors into BSU courses (those being Juniors from last year).

Questions:

- Steve Bernard asks:

Are Dual Enrollment students on track to maintain a full-time college student status which transition them from Dual Enrollment to Early College?

Yes, it is a possibility.

- Chair Phillips asks if after graduation, will there be a change in how the BSU students receive their degrees?

We will acknowledge those who earned their AA. Omari explained that students attending Bridgewater State University will no longer receive associate's degrees from Massasoit, but will still earn 60 college credits. The committee discussed how to explain this change to parents and students, with Mimi noting that while there are questions about options, there hasn't been pushback against the new model

- Steve Bernard asks for an explanation of how parents are able to save from college expenses

OW explains the difference of how the 2-yr and 4-yr institutions, one of the colleges simply offers the AA degree and the other doesn't. The credits remain unchanged. The distinction is simply that one of the institutions does not confer two-year degrees.

- Do parents have to sign off on a contract regarding the difference of attending either BSU and MCC as well as the degree attainment?

MCC is based on Liberal Arts degree while BSU offers a wide variety of degrees they can attain. But all parents are grounded to the fact that students can attend college for free.

MF adds that our current seniors had an opportunity to attend an informal session so they could be privy to all pertinent options. Some may add that those who attend courses at BSU have more options as to what courses they want to take verses the courses that are already picked out for students at MCC.

- Chair Phillips asks:

Do we anticipate any student inquiring or having a misunderstanding as to what degree they'll be obtaining?
No we do not anticipate "but you never know". The Administration at NHCSB does a great job of keeping students and families informed regarding the difference of degrees, where their student will be taking courses, along with a contract students and families must sign off on before the year commences.

C. Data Presentation

Kaitlin began her Data presentation explaining the state's accountability report, which evaluates progress towards targets in five weighted categories including achievement, student growth, and high school completion.

Achievement: MS (60%, HS (40%)
Student Growth; MS (20%, HS 20%)
HS Completion: HS (20%, ELL Proficiency- MS 10%, HS 10%)
Additional Indicators: MS (20%, HS 10%)
Points are received for all students.

What is the accountability report: A report the state puts out that looks at progress towards target versus ourselves and other middle-high schools across the state

Kaitlin presented a comprehensive analysis of New Heights' academic performance data, highlighting progress toward improvement targets and comparisons with other schools. She noted that while the school is close to reaching substantial progress, there are areas for growth, particularly in high school achievement scores and special education outcomes. The data shows positive trends in chronic absenteeism rates and early college course completion, while also identifying challenges in English language proficiency and math scores for some student groups.

School Snapshot
Currently we're at a 46% (moderate)
Accountability Percentile: 43% - the normative number that compares us to the state.
Criterion-Referenced target - 39% (just looks at 2025 progress)

ELL + FEL Snapshot
Progress towards improvement targets: 43% moderate
Student Group Percentile - 68%
Criterion-Referenced target - 33%

SPED (ONLY MIDDLE SCHOOL)
Progress Towards Improvement Targets: 25% (moderate)
Student Group Percentile - 25

Bright Spots
ELA and MATH Growth (chart is presented):
students are either exceeding typical growth or experiencing high typical growth
HS Chronic Absenteeism Rate**:**
Dropped by 12-14% which was much high than the target the state set for us

Advanced Coursework**: 96.6. of 11th/12th graders took and passed at least 1 EC course, an increase of 5.6 % from 2024**

MS ELL and FEL students improved or met targets in almost all accountability areas. They experienced the most growth in ELA.

Area of Growth: MS Math and Science Achievement

Comments and/or Questions:
Steve Bernard comments that accumulating this data speaks to how accountable we are to our goals and data.

Chair Phillips commends Steve and Kaitlin for putting this presentation together and OW for directing this committee.

OW asks if we can provide more comparisons and maybe pause after each category to give people time to ask questions? Both Steve Bernard and Chair Phillips agrees that this would be a good practice moving forward.

Next Steps:

For the upcoming Board meeting: Enrollment report, introduction of the AP of EC, and the data presented by Kaitlin will be presented.

III. 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 3:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Bernard