APPROVED

New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

Minutes

Finance Meeting

Date and Time
Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 1:00 PM

Location
Zoom

New Heights Board of Trustees
Starting Time: 1:00pm
Location: 1105 West Chestnut Street
Brockton, MA 02301
Join Zoom Meeting

ZOOM Meeting:
Description:
ZOOM LINK

Committee Members Present
N. Christ (remote)

Committee Members Absent
J. Charnel, J. Radzevich, S. Jackson, W. Lyttle

Ex Officio Members Present
O. Walker (remote)

Guests Present
Delroy Dennis (remote), J. Geier, M. Fernandes (remote), M. Jean (remote), S. Graham

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

N. Christ called a meeting of the Finance Committee of New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees to order on Tuesday May 5, 2026 at 1:06 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

II. Finance

A. YTD (March)

The meeting focused on reviewing year-to-date financials, which showed expenses and revenue running slightly below budget due to timing of grant funds. Omari explained the reimbursement process with community colleges, clarifying that while schools don't directly receive funding, they benefit from state funding allocated based on credits earned. The group discussed concerns about potential increases in course costs from Massasoit Community College, with Omari noting that while contracts show $4,500 per course, actual costs have been higher. Maria suggested adding language to the MOU regarding reimbursement funds to protect against future cost increases. The committee concluded that the financials were in line with expectations and approved them without material changes.

B. FY'27 Draft Budget w/Narrative

III. New Business

A. Buildings and Grounds Proposals

Delroy presented the 2026 capital priorities for New Heights, highlighting five key projects including a PA intercom system, gym storage expansion, front entry enhancement, gym floor replacement, and mezzanine observation deck. The team discussed the gym storage edition project, which was estimated at $250,000 and would involve constructing new storage space outside the floodplain area, avoiding the need for additional zoning approval.

Delroy explained that construction estimates and prevailing wage requirements for the school development project. He confirmed that prevailing wages would be paid and that the project would comply with Massachusetts state law Chapter 30B.

The group then reviewed the Front Entry Enhancement Project, a $195,000 initiative designed to improve security, branding, and aesthetics at New Heights Charter School. The project includes features like a perimeter wall, landscape redesign, and a peace pole, with sustainable and low-maintenance elements.

They discussed plans for replacing the gym floor, with vendors recommending the Target Omnisports LumaFlex Hybrid system at $240,000 due to its moisture mitigation and longer lifespan compared to traditional hardwood options. Omari explained that the current gym floor issues stem from inadequate construction when the building was converted from a Verizon garage, leading to settlement and moisture problems.

Lastly, the group discussed capital improvements for the gymnasium, including a mezzanine observation deck, gym storage, and PA intercom system, with an estimated total cost of $1.2 million. Nicholas recommended financing these improvements rather than using existing cash reserves, as the current $3.355 million cash position should be preserved. The team agreed to explore financing options, with Suzanne tasked to start conversations about financing and depreciation considerations, while Delroy will package the plans and quotes for review. The group decided to present to the board that finance is supportive of the capital improvements and recommends exploring financing options rather than using cash reserves.

B. Attorney Smagula's Contract

IV. 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 2:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
N. Christ