APPROVED

# New Heights Charter School Board of Trustees

# Minutes

## Emergency Board Meeting

**Date and Time**
Saturday February 7, 2026 at 4:00 PM

New Heights Board of Trustees
Starting Time: 4:00pm

**ZOOM Meeting:**
Description:
ZOOM LINK

**Trustees Present**
G. Bengen (remote), G. Phillips (remote), N. Christ (remote), S. Jackson (remote), V. Marturano (remote), W. Lyttle (remote)

**Trustees Absent**
J. Charnel, J. Radzevich, L. Delgado, R. Jones-Hyde, S. Bernard

**Ex Officio Members Present**
O. Walker

**Guests Present**
Angela Smagula, Anthony Wright, Hosea Langham, Justin Gadry, M. Fernandes, M. Jean, N. Jones

**I. Opening Items**

**A.**

**Record Attendance**

### B. 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 Saturday Feb 7, 2026 at 4:07 PM.

## II. Basketball Update

### A. NHCSB Disqualified from Tournament

W. Lyttle made a motion to move forward with Appeal process.
G. Bengen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**1. Basketball Disqualification Appeal Discussion**

The board discussed an emergency situation where New Heights' top-ranked boys and girls varsity basketball teams were disqualified from the charter school league state tournament due to a missed deadline for playing a rescheduled game against Foxborough Charter School. Omari explained that the game was postponed due to a water pipe issue and could not be rescheduled before the deadline due to scheduling conflicts. The board learned that the disqualifying body, led by Phil Signoroni, who chairs two relevant committees, refused to reconsider the decision despite potential conflicts of interest. Dr. Jones suggested appealing to the court for an injunction, and Angela was brought in to advise on the next steps. The board agreed to file an appeal within the 48-hour window, requesting a formal meeting to decide on the teams' eligibility rather than leaving it to Phil's discretion.

**2. Charter School Basketball Disqualification**

The meeting focused on the disqualification of New Heights Charter School's basketball teams from the charter school tournament. Omari explained that the Athletic Director, Mr. Anthony Wright, was notified by Mr. Signoroni via email Friday morning. Dr. Jones then contacted Omari in the afternoon about our teams not being eligible, despite being ranked number one, and an informal appeal was made. The group discussed the need for a formal appeal process and the possibility of pursuing legal action to halt the tournament scheduled for Monday. Angela, the attorney, was authorized to file an emergency appeal in court to prevent the tournament from starting.

**3. Charter School Playoff Disqualification Appeal**

The group discussed pursuing legal action against a charter school athletic organization after being disqualified from playoffs due to scheduling issues. Angela explained they need to file an appeal with the executive committee within two business days, which would allow for a hearing or investigation. The team debated whether to seek a temporary injunction in court to either allow New Heights to play or pause the entire tournament while the appeal is heard. They noted concerns about the timing of the

hearing scheduled for 6pm Saturday, just before the Super Bowl, and the fact that the tournament begins Monday morning.

**4. School Sports Appeal Strategy Meeting**

The group discussed a legal situation involving a school sports team and their appeal process. They decided to include their attorney, Angela, in an upcoming 6 PM meeting with the opposing party, despite potential objections. The team also considered the possibility of pursuing an injunction if the meeting was canceled. They reviewed the school's handbook regarding the appeal process and discussed their strategy for requesting a written decision from the Executive Committee.

**5. Playoff Exclusion Decision Meeting**

The meeting discussed a situation where New Heights basketball teams were excluded from playoffs due to not playing Foxborough Regional Charter School during the regular season. The decision was made at 8 AM on Friday after the power rankings were released at 11 AM, with the administration notifying Omari at 1 PM. Omari attempted to appeal the decision, contacting Phil at around 2:30 PM, but Phil confirmed there was no wiggle room for appeal, as the decision was finalized after the 8 AM meeting.

**Tournament Appeal Process Challenges**

The group discussed their exclusion from a tournament, with Omari explaining that Phil made a final decision at 1:30 PM on Friday, despite earlier discussions, and indicated no appeal options were available. Nichole shared that she had sent an email on Friday appealing the decision, highlighting the inequity in the process and questioning the committee's understanding of the league's situation. Maria mentions (during the discussion) that Omari has received an email from Beth Anderson, who advised sending the appeal to individual board members of the athletics group, suggesting potential intervention. The team expressed frustration with the lack of response and the perceived lack of transparency in the decision-making process.

**Basketball Playoff Appeal Strategy**

Angela and Omari discussed appealing a decision regarding the basketball playoffs, arguing that there was malfeasance in the initial communication about the lack of appeal options. They explored the possibility of filing an emergency motion for an injunction in Superior Court, emphasizing the need to pause the playoffs to allow for administrative remedies to be exhausted. Angela outlined the legal requirements for such a motion, including the need for affidavits and a memorandum of law, while noting the urgency of the situation given the upcoming game on Monday. The group also discussed the importance of the power rankings in determining playoff eligibility and considered the possibility of filing in Everett, which is in Middlesex County.

**Charter School League Appeal Discussion**

The team discussed appealing their exclusion from the Charter School League tournament, arguing that they missed the deadline by one day due to scheduling conflicts

with three games per week and that the committee knew about the issue before notifying them. Angela will lead the appeal, arguing that the decision should be made by the board of directors due to procedural errors and conflicts of interest within the committee. The group also considered highlighting the committee's delay in communicating the decision and the potential involvement of a board member for additional support.

## 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 4:56 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
G. Phillips