



The New American Academy Charter School

Minutes

TNAACS Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday February 26, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Location

9301 Avenue B Brooklyn NY 11236

Directors Present

A. Sadr-Kiani (remote), E. DeAngelis (remote), F. Monroe (remote), H. Hunt (remote), M. Harrington (remote), V. McDonald (remote)

Directors Absent

K. Monroe

Guests Present

J. Trani (remote), L. Parquette Silva (remote)

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

E. DeAngelis called a meeting of the board of directors of The New American Academy Charter School to order on Wednesday Feb 26, 2020 at 6:03 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

H. Hunt made a motion to approve the minutes from TNAACS Board Meeting on 01-29-20.

E. DeAngelis seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. Finance

A. Monthly Financials

Jenny Trani reviewed the January 2020 financials.

Projecting a surplus of approximately 87,000 due to a change in spending. In addition, a grant was received and operating with few employees due to restructuring.

Upcoming numbers - getting money from Islip for students who attend TNAACS. They will be invoiced and those funds should come to TNAACS.

Lisa spoke to technology and seeing if it is necessary to have two vendors for technology.

Considering using only one vendor - either iWise or CharterTech. Preference seems to be iWise.

Matt Harrington said he can help support the decision with background information from his experience.

III. Governance

A. NYSED Site Visit Report

NYSED Board of Regents will vote next Monday on our Renewal Application. Official vote will be known by end of day on Monday.

David Frank and Kimberly Santiago will be having a conference call with Mac and Lisa on Thursday. Made progress in almost every benchmark.

Lisa created a one page summary of the NYSED data and shared with the ELT. Lisa reviewed the report and where TNAACS made growth in many benchmarks.

Strength - leadership, teachers, parents, culture, collaboration with other schools, team practices, headmaster

Need of improvement: Use data in board meetings, number of trustees on the board, using data to drive instruction.

Jenny has worked the staff on the utilization of data and coming up with goals. Progress is being monitored and will continue to target needs, especially for the upcoming state tests.

School governance - expectation is to never be in the position to have fewer than 5 members.

Code of ethics and by laws - Revision of these needs to happen. Probably need some revision to enrollment policy change.

May need to have an attorney review documents to make sure there are no compliance issues with special education students.

Mac asked how often the board code of ethics needs to be reviewed. Matt said that an annual review would probably be best.

Conference calls were suggested as ways for committee work to get done. This work needs to happen outside the board meeting. People can be on a committee but not necessarily on the board. Lisa asked that we try to recruit others who might want to be on the marketing committee or finance committee.

B. Vote On New Board Member Matt Harrington

A motion was made by Holly Sparks to vote Matt Harrington as a new board member. It was seconded by Fleur Monroe and passed unanimously.

Lisa thanked Matt for volunteering to be on the board.

IV. Education

A. Staffing Update

We have replaced our Floater Teacher as of Wednesday February 5th with Lori Mottley. Our Physical Education Teacher (Coach Jake) returned from paternity leave as of Monday February 24th. As of today we are fully staffed.

V. Other Business

A. Student Recruitment Update

• Applications as of today for September 2020 - 159 • Kindergarten - 92 • 1st Grade - 13 • 2nd Grade - 11 • 3rd Grade - 11 • 4th Grade - 22 • 5th Grade - 10

The district, which has a number of charter schools, competes for the same students. This time last year we had 215 applications.

Before the break, we contacted all of the 1st-grade applicants and offered them a Kindergarten seat now in order to bypass the lottery. Unfortunately, families were not interested in moving their child to a new school at this time.

Lisa reported that additional recruitment efforts include:

In March, Lisa will be setting up an information table at the Morris Koppelman Early Childhood Center during their Family Meeting.

March 21st we will be attending the Student Recruitment Fair at the LIU Brooklyn Campus. The fair promises more than 400 families in attendance. They will give us the email addresses of all the attendees.

April 4th we will host our Open House from 10am to 12noon for potential families.

Additionally, we will continue to flyer the neighborhood.

Distributing flyers the neighborhood which started this month.

Visits to Friends of Crown Heights and SCO Early Childhood Center.

Walk in school tours every Wednesday advertised by the Charter School Center.

Social media out reach. Lisa and Isabella are working on this.

The number one way that new students come to the school is through word of mouth.

Mac asked about the strategies for social media - Lisa said they were using instagram (tool to push your posts to the top as on example.)

Lisa stated that recruitment is a year-round project and not just a pre-lottery project.

VI. 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 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

E. DeAngelis

Holly made the motion to adjourn. Fleur seconded. Unanimous approval to adjourn.

Documents used during the meeting

- 2020_01_29_board_meeting_minutes.pdf
- Monthly Report_Jan 2020_TNAACS.PDF
- Final Draft to School TNAACS REN RPT 01-31-2020 (1).pdf
- Data from the NYSED Renewal Visit Report.docx