

Neighborhood Charter Schools  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board Trustees**  
September 26, 2018

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Neighborhood Charter Schools (the “Education Corporation” or “NCS”) was held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 500 W. 138<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM.

**Trustees Present in Person:**

Gail Brousal  
Derek Fleming  
Jefferson Hughes  
Everardo Jefferson  
Justena Kavanagh  
Starr Peoples  
Andrew Popper  
Adam Rashid  
Walter Rendon  
Patricia Soussloff

**Trustees Participating by Video Conference:**

Arthur Sadoff

**Trustees Absent:**

Brian Hamilton  
Cliff Schneider

**Others in Attendance:**

Brett Gallini  
Nicholas Carton  
Karen Podsiadly  
Victor Rios  
Sherita Smith  
Downey Tang  
Michael Renda

*Nine (10) of the twelve (12) seated trustees were in attendance in person and present throughout the meeting and one (1) trustee participated by video conference throughout the meeting, which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting.*

**1. Welcome and Public Comment**

Ms. Soussloff began the meeting and invited public comment. No comments were received. Ms. Soussloff introduced a visitor, Karen Podsiadly, Board Chair of ROC Achieve Charter School in Rochester.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

Ms. Soussloff noted one correction to the August 29, 2018 draft minutes, which failed to record that Gail Brousal was absent from that meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes as corrected, was seconded and was unanimously approved.

## **3. High School Placement Discussion**

Ms. Bowman was unable to attend the meeting so Mr. Gallini and Mr. Renda gave the presentation she prepared describing her work as our new High School Placement Counselor. The School's goal is to work with each student and their families, beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, to help them identify and be admitted to high quality high schools that are right for their interests and academic and social and emotional needs. Mr. Gallini and Mr. Renda described Ms. Bowman's work to date. Discussion ensued with a number of suggestions from board members.

## **4. Executive Director's Report**

1. Mr. Gallini announced that he received a call from SED to congratulate the School for having the highest scores on the state tests of any independent charter school in New York State. Applause and congratulations all around.
  - a. Enrollment/Demographic Dash: We are above our budgeted enrollment by 9 students with 569 scholars enrolled. ELL up to 33 scholars. We believe that ELL numbers will be higher in the Bronx. We have more gender and racial diversity in our staff than ever. A team of staff members returned today from recruiting at Howard University.
  - b. Testing/Scores: We looked at a comparison of our students' state test performance with other NYC charters, both network and independent. NCSH performed very well.
  - c. Staffing: We are stable, with no resignations.
  - d. Pre-K: Mr. Gallini continues to be interested in opening a pre-K. He and Ms. Smith visited a pre-K in another charter school and are looking into the details which will be presented at a later meeting. A discussion ensued.
  - e. Suspension & Restorative Practices: Mr. Renda described his vision for a shift in our suspension protocols to incorporate more restorative practices and in-school suspensions where students can continue to learn and also perform community service to "restore" themselves to the classroom family. Out of school suspensions will still be used for serious infractions. We are also enlarging and improving our SEL program for middle school students in small group settings called LIGHT Squads that meet daily and address team building and situational problem-solving. In addition we are starting an official mentorship program between staff and select students who could benefit from one-to-one mentoring.

## **5. Report on NCS: Harlem Long-Term Facility**

Ms. Smith presented on construction progress at 691 St. Nicholas. Discussion ensued.

## **6. Report on NCS: Bronx Facility**

Ms. Smith presented on progress at the site. Civic Builders has provided us with written assurance that the building will be ready for occupancy by July 31, 2019. Discussion ensued.

## **7. Adjournment**

There being no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gail Brousal, Acting Secretary in the  
absence of Cliff Schneider

I, Gail Brousal, acting in place of the duly qualified Secretary of Neighborhood Charter Schools, a New York education corporation, do hereby certify that I prepared these Minutes, and that the above is a true and complete copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the said corporation held on September 26, 2018.

Dated: September \_\_, 2018