Neighborhood Charter Schools

Notes from the Meeting of the Board Trustees

August 28, 2019

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Neighborhood Charter Schools (the “Education Corporation” or “NCS”) was convened on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 at 411 Wales, New York, NY. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 PM.

Trustees Present in Person:

Andrew Popper

Adam Rashid

Arthur Sadoff

Patricia Soussloff

Trustees requesting to participate by Video:

Derek Fleming

Starr Peoples

Trustees Absent:

Gail Brousal

Brian Hamilton

Jefferson Hughes

Everardo Jefferson

Justena Kavanagh

Walter Rendon

Cliff Schneider

Others in Attendance:

Sherita Smith

Sarah Iannucci

Victor Rios

Martha Michael, Board Chair, Ivy Hill Prep

*Four (4) of the thirteen (13) seated Trustees were in attendance in person and two (2) participated by video but due to technology difficulties could not be seen or heard by those present. Ms. Soussloff noted the lack of a quorum and consequent inability to transact business. The meeting was adjourned. Those present remained for informal updates from Ms. Soussloff and Ms. Smith. Notes from the updates will be circulated to all Board members.*

**August 28, 2019 Board Meeting Notes**

1. **Approval of July Minutes**

July minutes will be submitted for approval at the September Board meeting.

1. **President’s Report**

Patti attended a conference sponsored by the North East Charter School Network (changing name to New York Charter School Association). The topic was the political landscape for charters in New York State.   Summary below:

* There are no charters left in NYC.
* In addition, the Senate is now controlled by Democrats for the first time in a number of years and by the widest margin in a century.  With the census taking place this year they will be able to control the re-districting which means Dems will probably control the state legislature for the foreseeable future.
* This is not good news for the charter sector in terms of PPF increases, raising the cap and who knows what else.
* The takeaway was that the sector, especially mom and pops like us, need to engage elected officials to educate them on what we do and make them understand that our parents are their constituents and they vote.
* NECSN asked those who are not yet members to consider joining. Dues are $10K.

The SED approved our request to open with four K classes in the Bronx.

Patti will be reaching out to Committee chairs to calendar meetings for the year, create goals.

1. **School Report (**See attached link to her slide deck.)

Sherita reported on our State Exam results which are once again very good. On average our students scored one point lower in ELA and 5 points higher in Math than last year, with some variability among cohorts. 7th graders did especially well. Sherita and Sarah will study in detail the performance of various cohorts and try to understand where differences in teaching and/or classroom culture made a difference in learning.

Amanda Bowman will be working with 7th and 8th graders this year on HS placement with emphasis in four areas:

1. 7th Grade: Work with families to educate them about HS options and requirements (testing, portfolios, etc.)
2. 8th Grade: Help students with application preparation, SHSAT and portfolio preparation.
3. Create plan for staying supporting our students after they leave us.
4. Data

The staff is in the second week of professional development. In addition to curriculum and teaching, there has been a focus on culture, student experience and social and emotional learning. Everyone is excited about the new buildings, setting up their classrooms and pitching in to help others. August 29 is “Meet Your Teacher” day and school starts September 4!

Facilities: There are a few punch list items at the Harlem sight. In the Bronx various items need completion but nothing major and should be finished by first day. Fire inspections are completed at both sites.