

Neighborhood Charter Schools
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board Trustees
June 17, 2020

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Neighborhood Charter Schools (the “Education Corporation” or “NCS”) was held on May 27, 2020 via video and phone conference. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

Trustees Present:

Gail Brousal
Brian Hamilton
Jefferson Hughes
Everardo Jefferson
Justena Kavanagh
Jennifer Lindsay
Andrew Popper
Samantha Ramos
Adam Rashid
Walter Rendon
Arthur Sadoff
Cliff Schneider
Patricia Soussloff

Trustees Absent:

Derek Fleming

Others in Attendance:

Analiza Wolf
Sarah Iannucci
Todd Sopher
Rachel Broomes
Victor Rios
Lauren Carey
Loretta Kleinberg
Brittany Moser
Lindsay Hughes
Downey Tang
Claire Henderson
David and Hurbert Godoy-Hatcher

Twelve of the thirteen seated Trustees were in attendance in person and present 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 by welcoming teachers and staff. Ms. Soussloff invited public comments and none were received.

2. Approval of May 2020 Minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Hughes and seconded by Mr. Sadoff to approve the May 2020 Board meeting minutes and was unanimously approved.

3. Nominating and Governance Committee.

a. Election of Trustees.

Ms. Soussloff, Mr. Sadoff, Mr. Popper and Mr. Rashid's terms are set to expire this year. Mr. Popper and Mr. Rashid have elected not to renew their terms, and Ms. Soussloff offered comments on their respective contributions to the Board and NCS and thanked them for their service. Mr. Sadoff moved and Mr. Schneider made a motion to re-elect Ms. Soussloff and Mr. Sadoff for a new three (3) year term, expiring at the June 2023 annual meeting and the motion was unanimously approved.

b. Election of Officers and Committee Members.

i. Slate of Officers-

1. President/Chair- Ms. Soussloff
2. Vice President- Mr. Hughes
3. Treasurer- Mr. Rendon
4. Secretary- Mr. Schneider

ii. Committee Members and Chairs

1. Finance: Chaired by Mr. Rendon; Ms. Lindsay, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Fleming and Ms. Soussloff Members.
2. Accountability: Chaired by Ms. Brousal; Mr. Sadoff, and Ms. Kavanagh Members.
3. Governance: Chaired by Ms. Soussloff; Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Sadoff and Mr. Rendon, Members.
4. Evaluation: Chaired by Mr. Schneider; Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Soussloff and Mr. Jefferson, Members.
5. Fundraising: Chaired by Ms. Kavanaugh; Ms. Soussloff, Ms. Ramos and Mr. Fleming, Members.

A motion was made by Mr. Rendon and seconded by Ms. Brousal to approve the slate of officers and committees and was unanimously approved.

4. Executive Director's Report.

Ms. Wolf began by thanking teachers and staff as well as a special thanks to Downey Tang and Lindsay Hughes who will be leaving NCS. Ms. Wolf then led the Trustees and others to present on a connection with the NCS mission with a focus on current events affecting the U.S. and our community related to racial injustice and how Scholars will learn about these events. NCS is providing staff and students with support and spaces to process and talk about recent events as well as plans to celebrate Juneteenth.

Ms. Wolf provided an update on the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts. There is a DEI Committee that is working on a variety of initiatives and plans for the next five years and a presentation will be made to the Board shortly.

With respect to plans for the fall, Ms. Wolf presented briefly on existing CDC guidelines and noted that we are awaiting further direction along with the rest of New York from Gov. Cuomo and others regarding what in person facilities will look like in the fall.

Ms. Wolf also provided an update on Harlem real estate: Mt. Zion and the potential for NCS to take space for FY 21, which will not be possible, and Bronx real estate: American Dream is moving out, Dream moving in (as originally planned).

Ms. Wolf presented on the status of enrollment registration. With respect to the Bronx, we are pretty close to meeting targets with respect to families that have completed registration.

5. Finance Report

Ms. Wolf presented on the budget process and how it has transitioned to be a collaborative process throughout various levels of the organization. The FY 21 projects a surplus of \$188,000 which includes a 3% salary increase for staff as well as a conservative budget for ASD and special education students while maintaining a bonus pool, staff moral-focused events, an afterschool program and sports leagues and extracurricular activities, which may be reduced or cut if required for Covid-19 contingency-related matters such as budget cuts.

A motion was made by Ms. Ramos and seconded by Mr. Sadoff to approve the FY 21 Budget and it was unanimously approved.

6. Family Survey

Ms. Wolf presented on the results of the family survey which showed that approximately 57% of families have experienced financial issues as a result of the Pandemic, roughly 90% have reliable internet access and over 75% of families agree or strongly agree that they are satisfied

with NCS' remote learning programs, and over 85% agree or strongly agree that they are pleased social and emotional care being provided by NCS at this time 75% are finding remote learning manageable with 25% still finding it hard to manage.

7. Presentation by Brittany Moser, ASD Coach.

Ms. Moser provided some information about her teaching background and experience at NCS as a 1st grade teacher and then a 3rd grade teacher and now the ASD Coach this school year. Ms. Moser presented on case conference, supporting teachers, supporting families during remote learning and supporting inclusion.

8. Academic Data.

Ms. Iannucci presented on the planning that has been underway for next year and the plans that will be implemented, depending on how the Governor approves learning scenarios for the fall with number of students in a building and other metrics. Ms. Iannucci also presented on how assessments may be conducted should remote learning continue into next year and how accommodations and adjustments will be made to account for the environment if Scholars have to take the assessments while not in a school building, versus in the school building where the environment can be controlled and students with certain needs for accommodations can be met.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Schneider moved to adjourn and Mr. Hughes seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cliff Schneider, Secretary

I, Cliff Schneider, 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 June 17, 2020.

Dated: July 29, 2020