

Neighborhood Charter Schools
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board Trustees
September 29, 2021

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Neighborhood Charter Schools (the “Education Corporation” or “NCS”) was held on September 29, 2021 at 411 Wales Avenue, Bronx, New York. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

Trustees Present:

Heidi Baker
Gail Brousal
Wylie Fennell
Brian Hamilton
Stephanie Hubbell
Jefferson Hughes
Walter Rendon
Cliff Schneider
Patricia Soussloff

Trustees Absent:

Justena Kavanagh
Samantha Ramos
Everardo Jefferson

Others in Attendance:

Lindsay Malanga
Michelle Rumph
Nick Carton
Loretta Kleinberg
Gitta Carton
Lauren Carey
Marsha Dupiton
Derrica Newman

Nine of the twelve 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 invited public comments and none were received.

2. Approval of July 2021 Minutes.

A motion was made by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Mr. Brousal to approve the July 2021 Board meeting minutes and was unanimously approved.

3. President's Report.

- a. **NCS-Harlem Charter Renewal.** Ms. Sousloff presented on the Behavioral-Cultural Policy (“BCP”) that is meant to bring in restorative practices into NCS’ discipline code, which requires a material change to the Charter and will be considered along with the NCS Harlem renewal application. **Ms. Hubbell moved and Ms. Baker seconded a motion to approve the BCP and the motion was unanimously approved.** Ms. Sousloff noted that the NYCDOE hearing on the NCS-Harlem renewal application will be October 7th on Zoom and will notify the Board when NYSED would like to meet with Trustees; the NYSED renewal site visit is scheduled for October 13th and 14th (virtually).
 - b. **Board Evaluation Review.** Ms. Sousloff noted that there are summaries in the Board Manual and if there are any questions or suggestions, Trustees should raise with Ms. Sousloff.
 - c. **2022-23 Calendar.** Ms. Sousloff and Ms. Malanga led a discussion on the plan for next year’s calendar in light of the NYCDOE bussing schedule, which doesn’t begin until the NYCDOE school year begins. There are also concerns with the current half-day schedule and how that and the lack of bussing during the first days of each year result in some families keeping their children at home. Accordingly, the idea is to align NCS’ calendar more closely to NYCDOE’s to increase student attendance on these days, assist families with child care and include more holidays. Even with this change- which is material because it is related to a key design element- NCS would still have a longer school day and school year. The consensus of the Board was that aligning NCS’ calendar more closely to the NYCDOE makes sense and Ms. Malanga will now poll families to solicit their feelings regarding a potential calendar change. **A motion was made by Ms. Barker and seconded by Mr. Schneider to upon Ms. Malanga soliciting positive feedback from families, request a material change NCS’ charters to reflect a calendar more closely aligned with the NYCDOE’s while still preserving the KDEs of a longer school day and school year and was unanimously approved.**
4. **2021-22 Curriculum Showcase.** NCS staff presented on culturally-responsive curriculum and Hallmarks of Focus in ELA, history, math and history. A discussion ensued.
 5. **Chief of Schools Report.** Ms. Malanga presented on the priorities and goals, academics, operations and culture. It was reported that five teachers left NCS due to the vaccine mandate but those rolls are being filled and the remainder of NCS is vaccinated.

Beginning of the year assessments are being completed and some results will be available by the October Board meeting; ELA interim assessment will be taken on October 22nd and results will be available by the November Board meeting. Special education was flagged as an area of concern with respect to staffing paraprofessional and related service provider rolls that are provided by agencies contracted by the NYCDOE; this is a result of the vaccine mandate and resulting staff shortages. The Network-wide operations structure is being assessed and revamped so that there are sufficient team members in the right positions to meet NCS' needs. With respect to student attendance, it is not currently where NCS leadership would like it to be for a variety of reasons- busing, Covid, etc.; attendance is hovering around 90%- and staff are working on family outreach and action plans to improve attendance. With respect to enrollment, NCS wide target is 921 and we are currently at 902 as of September 22nd. Active enrollment efforts from the healthy waitlists continue. With respect to culture, the new staff evaluation tool was rolled out, DEI session was held on September 17th and parents are very excited about the free after-school program (covered by the CARES Act funding). A discussion ensued.

6. **Treasurer's Report.** Mr. Rendon presented on past, current and forwarding-looking overall financial picture, and thanked Ms. Rumph for all of her efforts put into organizing our financial platform, which is strong. A discussion ensued regarding real estate opportunities and other opportunities available to leverage NCS' financial strength. Ms. Rumph provided an update on the FY 21 Audit. NCS' auditors will be completing the Audit, presenting first to the Finance Committee and then the Board approving.
7. **Executive Session.** A motion was made by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Mr. Hughes to enter executive session to discuss a confidential employment matter and the motion was unanimously approved. No votes were taken during executive session.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Schneider moved and Mr. Rendon seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting which was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 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 September 29, 2021.

Dated: October 27, 2021