

Neighborhood Charter Schools
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board Trustees
February 26, 2025

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of Neighborhood Charter Schools (the “Education Corporation” or “NCS”) was held on February 26, 2025, at 691 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York 10030, and via video. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 PM.

Trustees Present:

Heidi Baker
Wylie Fennell
Stephanie Hubbell (via video)
Everardo Jefferson (via video)
Morgan Jenkins (via video)
Walter Rendon (via video)
Cliff Schneider
Patricia Soussloff (via video)

Trustees Absent:

None

Others in Attendance:

Daniel McCormick
Michelle Rumph
Michelle Santos
Elizabeth Schroeder

Three (3) out of eight (8) seated Trustees were in attendance in person and five (5) out of eight (8) seated Trustees were in attendance via videoconference. All in attendance by video fulfilled the requirement of publishing their physical addresses of the location from which they were attending in advance of the meeting. All eight (8) seated Trustees were present throughout the meeting, which constituted a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting.

1. Welcome and Public Comment

Mr. Schneider began the meeting and invited public comments. No comments were received.

2. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Fennell and seconded by Ms. Baker to approve the minutes from the January 22, 2025 Board meeting and was unanimously approved

3. President’s Report

Ms. Soussloff informed the Board that she did not have any updates to provide at this meeting.

4. Executive Director's Report

Mr. McCormick asked Ms. Santos to provide an update from Operations. Ms. Santos informed the Board that enrollment for SY 2025-2026 is ongoing with a target of three applications per open seat. Applications for the ASD Program are also increasing. She stated that so far 216 applications have been received for grades K-7 in the Bronx and 271 applications for grades K-8 in Harlem and provided a breakdown by grade per school. High School planning continues, with surveys conducted in January with middle school parents and Scholars. Focus groups are being held, and NCS is reaching out to alumni families and students to ask about their experiences after graduation and thoughts on a potential NCS High School. The data that is collected will be shared with the Board at the March Board of Trustees meeting during a presentation by consultant Jenn Lindsay. Finally, Ms. Santos discussed the food tastings that have been scheduled with the meal provider, Whitsons Culinary Group, at each school to address the concerns voiced by parents in the survey that they filled out in November. The tasting in Harlem took place today and is scheduled at the Bronx for tomorrow. 30 Scholars along with staff members were selected at each school to sample items from Whitsons' menu. Based on the results from Harlem so far General Tso's chicken and a new sandwich will be added to the offerings for NCS.

Mr. McCormick informed the Board that NCS has officially joined the National Junior Honor Society and that the chapter will launch this Spring in Harlem with grades 7-8 and expand next year to the Bronx. Journalist and talk show host Tamron Hall will be visiting Harlem tomorrow to film segments and take photos with first and third grade classes and staff. She is partnering with the organization The Kids Mental Health Foundation, will give a sneak peek of her new book, Harlem Honey: The Adventures of a Curious Kid, and talk with Scholars about kindness, friendship and mental health. This opportunity was arranged with the help of Board member Dr. Jenkins. In the Bronx, after some delays the partnership with CompSci High has begun, with a group of Scholars visiting their building (located two blocks away) one time per week for "Basketball and Books". NCS Scholars receive tutoring in reading and play basketball with CompSci high school students.

Mr. McCormick advised that he and Alison Rosnick, consultant and former Director of Talent and HR at NCS, presented at a webinar hosted by NY Charter Center on pay transparency and equity. He has also been working with Jenn Manning, consultant and former Director of Special Education at NCS, on developing teachers and improving the co-teaching model in classrooms. This month they visited classrooms in both campuses and saw a noticeable improvement in the use of the 2-teacher approach. He also indicated that he will be attending the National Charter Conference in July 2025 that will take place in Orlando, FL.

Lawyers for NCS have been consulted for guidance on recent immigration concerns that have arisen from Executive Orders by the current administration as well as the "Dear

Colleague” letters threatening to withhold federal funding if DEI is not abolished in schools.

Lastly, Mr. McCormick provided highlights from the work of the DEI Committee and pointed to the Principals’ reports recounting events and Black History Month celebrations that took place in February at both schools. Intent to return forms were sent out to staff before the Mid Winter break and Mastery for the ELA exam began on Monday.

5. Finance and Real Estate Update

Mr. Rendon advised that at this time of the year NCS reviews vendor contracts and surplus and starts planning the budget for FY 26. Currently NCS has a higher revenue than budgeted due to the increase in per pupil billing for additional Scholars with IEPs that have been identified and billed at the appropriate rate, as well as lower expenses.

Regarding real estate, the Application for bond financing is under review, and the Build NYC staff has been conducting due diligence. There is uncertainty as to when BuildNYC will approve financing for the buyout of the building at 411 Wales Avenue and the ground lease from Civic Builders, which will hopefully happen by May. NCS is also waiting for the real estate tax exemption and refund for the Bronx building.

Finally, NCS has 3.6 months/111 days of cash on hand, representing a strong and stable financial position.

6. Executive Session

A motion was made by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Ms. Baker to enter into executive session to discuss confidential student and personnel matters and was unanimously approved. No votes were taken during the session. A motion was made by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Mr. Fennell to exit executive session and was unanimously approved.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Baker made a motion which was seconded by Ms. Soussloff, to adjourn the meeting and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi Baker

I, Heidi Baker, the duly qualified Secretary of Neighborhood Charter Schools, a New York education corporation, do hereby certify that I reviewed 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 February 26, 2025.

Dated: February 26, 2025