

Neighborhood Charter Schools  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees**  
February 26, 2026

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, 2026, at 691 St. Nicholas Avenue, New York 10030, and via video. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

**Trustees Present:**

Heidi Baker  
Stephanie Hubbell  
Walter Rendon (via video)  
Cliff Schneider

**Trustees Absent:**

Wylie Fennell  
Morgan Jenkins

**Others in Attendance:**

Daniel McCormick  
Michelle Santos  
Michelle Rumph  
Tia Webb  
Thiara

Three (3) out of six (6) seated Trustees were in attendance in person and one (1) out of six (6) seated Trustees were in attendance via videoconference. Four (4) out of six (6) 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 by inviting public comments. No comments were received.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Ms. Hubbell and seconded by Ms. Baker to approve the minutes from the January 29, 2026 Board meeting and was unanimously approved.

**3. President’s Report**

Mr. Schneider stated that he was looking forward to seeing the photographs of the snow clean up that occurred after the latest storm. Due to the way school days are counted (by hours instead of by calendar days) NCS will not have a problem with meeting the number of required instructional days as recently amended in the Charters (in the range of 181 to 184 days).

The National Charter Schools Lawyers Association will have its meeting in the Spring that will include school tours. Mr. Schneider will let the Board know when more information is available.

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

Mr. McCormick asked Ms. Santos to provide an update from Operations. Ms. Santos informed the Board that NCS schools were closed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> due to the blizzard that we experienced in New York City. The school-based teams created strong reopening plans for their buildings and the facilities teams worked diligently to ensure the schools were ready and safe for reopening.

The Parent Associations have been holding regular meetings and collaborating with school leaders on events including potlucks and school dances as well as on fundraisers. Bylaws are being finalized to streamline expectations and help ensure a clear vision of the Associations. As to school news, both campuses completed their simulation tests last month. The simulations take place every year prior to the state exams to troubleshoot technology and make sure that students and staff become familiar with the Nextera application that will be used for testing. NCS is working to increase its social media presence with the help of Alicia Etienne, Dean of Students in Harlem and Michelle Marte, Operations Manager in the Bronx. A couple of the recent social media posts went viral and led to an increase in followers to the accounts. Enrollment is on budget and steady for SY 25-26, and preparations are underway for the SY 26-27 lottery that will take place in April. Participation by families in the Intent to Return to School was high, with 100% survey completion in the Bronx and a very high percentage in Harlem. Black History Month events took place at both schools and included Black Excellence Trivia and a Roots & Roses event celebrating culture, heritage and identity, that took place in Harlem and will take place in the Bronx on a rescheduled date in March. There is a new staff Book Club with over 20 staff members that will be meeting at the end of the month to discuss the first selection, *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. In partnership with Broadway Housing Communities housing applications have been made available to families and job opportunities have been shared with alumni. Finally, the Charter School Advocacy Day that was originally scheduled for January has been canceled.

Mr. McCormick stated that the team at LeveragED visited the Bronx campus to complete a School Health Assessment by visiting classrooms and meeting with leaders. They have provided NCS with useful feedback and next steps. In terms of the High School planning, the national search for the new Chief Academic and Schools Officer (CASO) and High School Principal has begun through Edgility. Jenn Lindsay is working on the timeline and onboarding for both positions. Searches for Founding Director of Operations, Managing Director of Special Education and campus-based Directors of Special Education are also underway and are being handled by the NCS Human Resources department.

NCS was informed on February 13<sup>th</sup> that it has made it to the semi-final round for consideration for the Charter School Growth Fund's SEED grant that would provide start-up funding for the High School expansion. By tomorrow they will advise when they will visit both campuses, which will happen either in late March or April, and that will include a meeting with the Board of Trustees. Final grant decisions will be made in June 2026. LeveragED will help to support the application. In addition, NCS has been invited to apply for a grant from the Buck Foundation to join the NYC Charter Literacy Consortium. The

application is due on Monday. This grant would provide funding for three academic years with the goal of helping students to meet literacy standards by 2035. If NCS is selected the grant will start in SY 26-27.

Mr. McCormick discussed the current work that is taking place towards the NCS High School. Job descriptions are being drafted and LIGHT values are being further defined and expanded. The Assistant Principals of Culture at both campuses have been meeting with a member of the consulting team to work on the behavior matrix that will be used from K-12 and that will be presented to the Board before it is presented to a family focus group in late March. Training and professional development will be provided to staff once the matrix is defined. On Friday before the February break there was a meeting with Katie, another member of the consulting team to discuss long term growth strategy including a plan for impact outside the New York City area. As part of the application process for the High School expansion, Mr. McCormick and Ms. Santos gave a presentation at a NYC DOE hearing that was only attended by members of the DOE. Brandy Marshall, the NCS NYSED liaison, will be visiting the Bronx campus on March 26<sup>th</sup> for a mid-charter review. Jenn Lindsay will be in person on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to meet with Civic Builders to discuss facilities for the High School and visit proposed temporary locations with Ms. Santos and Ms. Crime.

Finally, Mr. McCormick informed the Board that there is a plan in place to increase the number of certified teachers that consists of an increased budget for the Relay program. There is also a plan being implemented as part of the ongoing enrollment efforts for SY26-27 to increase MLL enrollment, which is less than district average at both campuses. Progress is being made on both fronts.

## **5. Finance Update**

Ms. Rumph informed the Board that the Form 990 has been finalized and is on target with the finance calendar. NCS is on projected to end the year ahead of budget. Although there is now an additional expense for the external network space, there are opportunities to identify savings. Work on the FY27 budget has begun. Monthly reports for the new self-insured health plan are being generated and show expenditures below budget. In terms of the purchase of the 411 Wales building, due diligence is still underway, and the Purchase and Sale Agreement deadline is being changed from February 27 to May 19 to accommodate Civic Builders' obligations as NCS waits for bond financing from BuildNYC. Finally, NCS has 117 days of cash on hand, representing a strong financial standing.

## **6. Executive Session**

A motion was made by Mr. Schneider and seconded by Ms. Baker to enter into executive session to discuss confidential personnel matters and was unanimously approved. No votes were taken during the session. A motion was made by Ms. Hubbell and seconded by Ms. Baker 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. Hubbell, to adjourn the meeting and the motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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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, 2026

Dated: February 26, 2026