Neighborhood Charter Schools
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board Trustees
September 24, 2026

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of Neighborhood Charter Schools (the "Education Corporation" or "NCS") was held on September 24, 2026, at 411 Wales Avenue, Bronx, New York 10454, and via video. The meeting was called to order at 6:07 PM.

Trustees Present:
Heidi Baker
Wylie Fennell
Stephanie Hubbell (via video)
Morgan Jenkins (via video)
Walter Rendon (via video)
Cliff Schneider (via video)

Trustees Absent:
None

Others in Attendance:
Daniel McCormick
Michelle Santos
Mary Heilmann
Michelle Rumph

Two (2) out of six (6) seated Trustees were in attendance in person and four (4) out of six (6) 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. Six (6) 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. Baker and seconded by Mr. Schneider to approve the minutes from the August 27, 2026 Board meeting and was unanimously approved.

3. President's Report

Mr. Schneider reported that NCS is in the process of setting up NCS email addresses for all Trustees as well as a Google drive for the Board to maintain important documents. Committee structures will be created in the drive and will be finalized next month. The

November Board of Trustees meeting will begin an hour early at 5:00 pm due to staff scheduling issues.

4. Approvals

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that as part of the renewal application process of the Harlem charter a resolution is required to ratify and adopt the materials that were submitted by NCS to NYSED on September 2, 2026.

A motion was made by Ms. Baker and seconded by Dr. Jenkins to ratify and adopt the Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Neighborhood Charter Schools Ratifying and Approving Harlem Charter Renewal Application Materials for Submission to the New York State Education Department as annexed hereto as Exhibit A and was unanimously approved.

Ms. Santos presented the draft of the new Staff Policy regarding E-Bikes, E-Scooters & Lithium Battery Safety that was provided to all Board members ahead of the meeting for review. The aim of the policy is to prevent any E-Bikes or E-Scooters from being brought into or stored inside an NCS school building and direct that they must be parked outdoors and at least six feet from the school building. Once approved, the policy will be included in the Family and Staff handbooks. A discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Ms. Baker and seconded by Ms. Hubbell to approve the NCS Staff Policy on E-Bikes, E-Scooters & Lithium-Ion Battery Safety and was unanimously approved.

5. Executive Team Report

Ms. Santos reported that the renewal application for the Harlem charter was submitted on September 2, 2026. Calendar holds were sent to all Trustees for October 26th and October 27th as the scheduled visit by NYSED and their meeting with the Board of Trustees are being planned. More information will be provided in the coming weeks. Ms. Santos indicated that she is working with the Harlem and Bronx Principals to complete the second portion of the Annual Report that includes detailing progress towards previously shared goals. The submission period opens on October 19th and the materials are expected to be turned in by the end of October.

Due to the opening of the NCS High School, the process for Grade 8 students to apply for high school will change. In the past, Harlem supported families in all aspects of the application to NYC DOE, private, Catholic or charter schools, including helping with SHSAT test preparation. Now that Grades 9-12 will be offered, all students will be directed to enroll in the NCS High School and support for external high school applications will only be provided to those families that request it.

Mr. McCormick informed the Board that Dr. Lisa Long, Executive Director of Charter School Office at NYSED, is visiting all schools that are up for charter renewals. Her visit to Harlem took place on September 14th, at which time Ms. Heilmann and Principal Jones took her around the school to visit classrooms, observe instruction and learning and speak

with leaders. During the visit Principal Jones gave a presentation, and Dr. Long spoke with Mr. McCormick and Ms. Santos about the state of the charter world and the future of NCS.

NCS has engaged Thoroughbred Consulting to develop a mission and vision for the K-8 athletics program and training for coaches with the Assistant Principals of Culture and heads of the athletics programs as both campuses. Professional development for new leaders and LIGHT Leaders is taking place through Insights Discovery, with selected leaders engaging in more advanced team dynamics that includes direct feedback. Mr. McCormick and Ms. Heilmann have been meeting with Founding High School Principal St. Leger and Director of Operations Ms. Briggs to finalize the high school programming model and staff matrix. Last Tuesday Mr. McCormick attended a meeting of the new NY Charter Coalition, a group of networks across the state interested in addressing issues affecting the charter sector in Albany and City Hall as a united front. The CSP grant applications have been submitted, both for a Collaborative Grant to work on leadership development training with two schools from District 2 in Manhattan, and an Expansion Grant, a large multiyear grant to support the growth of the NCS High School. NCS should be hearing on the decisions soon. NCS will be applying for a grant from the Charter School Growth Fund when the application goes live.

Ms. Heilmann reported that Principals Cepeda and Jones are attending a week-long leadership training and development session with their LeveragEd Cohort in Atlanta, GA and will be returning to their schools on Monday. They are also working with their coaches, Caroline Roth with Principal Jones and Paloma Saez from Lavinia with Principal Cepeda. Assistant Principals are receiving onsite coaching through AP Academy, a series of day long seminars for instructional leadership, as well as on site coaching through Teaching Lab. LIGHT Leaders received two days of training so far and will participate in monthly sessions to build their skills in systems and people leadership. Teachers will be receiving professional development in the form of interdisciplinary workshops focused on literacy instruction that have been arranged through the CLC Grant and include Bard's Interactive Writing Workshops and the University of Pennsylvania's Literacy Network course. Nancy Tarshis continues to provide development in social thinking supports.

Back-to-School Night was held at both campuses earlier this month to provide families with information on curriculum and supporting students at home. Attendance at the event was described as "amazing" for the Bronx and "decent" for Harlem. The gaps in the Upper School curriculum have been rectified with the help of Assistant Director of Academics Upper School Azsa Parker that involved ordering ELA books and Science and Math materials. Last week the universal iReady screener was administered, NCS should have results by the end of this week or early next week. Ms. Heilmann is working with the Principals on meeting Cycle 0 priorities, which include establishing a strong classroom culture and core routines, setting clear expectations of active learning and creating a culture of feedback and learning. It was noted that there is a lot work that needs to happen in Kindergarten classrooms to meet the priorities and that students should still feel a sense of belonging and comfort when they make mistakes.

6. Facilities Updates

Mr. Schneider informed the Board that the Preliminary Official Statement went live as an update on the progress of the 411 Wales Building purchase. Next week the Investor Q&A will take place, which will be followed by the sale of the bonds. A meeting with the underwriters about the bond sale is also scheduled. Closing is expected to take place in mid October.

Ms. Santos reported that in terms of a temporary facility for the High School the goal is to find a location for 1 to 3 years, or potentially up to 4 or 5 and to move into the permanent location in Year 4, 5 or 6. This is dependent on the lease for the temporary space as well as allowing for a minimum of 3 years to complete ground up development of the permanent High School space. The current preferred temporary location is the KIPP building at 501 Gerard Avenue, which would require a contract with Gaucho's Gym across the street for gymnasium access. NCS is negotiating the terms of a lease for either 4 or 5 years. NCS is also looking at 831 Eagle Avenue, Bronx, NY, as an alternate temporary site that is currently unoccupied and has suitable space for Physical Education classes but would require use of the Bronx campus or an alternate space for sports practices. NCS has walked through the space with Civic Builders and submitted the initial Letter of Intent to the landlord for consideration. Permanent locations that are currently being vetted are 840 Gerard Avenue and 555 River Avenue in the Bronx. Upcoming Board engagement will involve meetings of the Facilities Committee to review the recommendation for temporary space lease and implications for permanent site development timing and a related update to the Board with the decision.

7. Network Updates

Ms. Santos reported that NCS is above network enrollment target, with additional students starting this week. In terms of the ASD Program, there are 130 students enrolled versus the target enrollment of 145 students, however the number of students receiving 60+ hours of related services is higher than target. NCS is actively working to close the ASD enrollment gap.

In terms of community engagement, NCS has created a space called The Neighborhood Connection to provide information to families on resources and opportunities happening in their surroundings. Parent University, a YouTube series of recorded videos on topics such as the ASD Program, understanding IEPs and School Culture, was launched this month. NCS is focusing on building community engagement in the Bronx by establishing relationships and partnerships with local organizations. Finally, the Literacy Lives Here initiative is taking shape as a network with the goal of making students love reading.

8. Principal Reports

Ms. Heilmann reported that Harlem is fully staffed and that Principal St. Leger held table talks with students to present more information about the High School. Professional learning from Lavinia took place in the Bronx. Principal St. Leger and Ms. Briggs are building excitement for the High School and have started an account on Instagram, @ncshs_. One of the questions that is up for decision is which dog will be selected as the High School mascot.

∫9. Data Reports

Mr. McCormick stated that NCS is currently cleaning up enrollment and the current student count for the Network is 1,239 students, 621 in Harlem and 618 in the Bronx, with an attendance rate of 92.44%.

10. Finance Update

Mr. Rendon informed the Board that the annual audit is taking place to put closure on FY26. So far the auditors from MMB + CO have indicated that there is nothing worth noting other than the NCS Finance Department's excellent work. Student enrollment numbers and staffing projections are still being finalized so the Budget vs. Actual reporting will take place next month. In terms of staffing Harlem is fully hired and there are two open positions in the Bronx. Multi-year projections will be provided in November. The purchase of the 411 Wales Building is expected to close mid-October, extended from the original end-of-September date. Currrently the due diligence portion of the project is progressing with NCS, Build NYC (the organization financing the project), Baird (the underwriters securing the loan), Civic Builders and Attorneys.

8. Executive Session

A motion was made by Dr. Jenkins and seconded by Ms. Hubbell 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 Dr. Jenkins and seconded by Mr. Fennell to exit executive session and was unanimously approved.

9. 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 7:35 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 September 24, 2026.

Dated: September 24, 2026

EXHIBIT A

Resolution of the Board of Trustees of Neighborhood Charter Schools Ratifying and Approving Harlem Charter Renewal Application Materials for Submission to the New York State Education Department

WHEREAS, Neighborhood Charter Schools (the "School") is a charter school operating pursuant to the New York Charter Schools Act of 1998 and its charter; and

WHEREAS, the School has prepared an application for renewal of its Harlem charter for submission to the New York State Education Department ("NYSED"), through the NYSED Charter School Office; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") has reviewed the materials prepared in connection with the School's charter renewal application, including, as applicable, the renewal application, supporting narratives and exhibits, academic and organizational performance information, enrollment and student demographic information, financial statements, proposed five-year budget, and other required certifications, assurances, and supporting documentation (collectively, the "Renewal Materials"); and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to formally approve and ratify the Renewal Materials and authorize the appropriate officers and representatives of the School to finalize, execute, certify, and submit such materials to NYSED, together with any supplemental information or clarifications that may be required in connection with the renewal process;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves and ratifies the Renewal Materials presented to and reviewed by the Board in connection with the School's Harlem charter renewal application, subject to any revisions or updates authorized in accordance with this resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Chair of the Board, the School's Executive Director, and/or such other duly authorized officer or representative of the School, acting within their respective authority, to finalize, execute, certify, and submit the Renewal Materials to NYSED through the applicable submission process; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the authorized officers and representatives of the School may make non-material corrections, clarifications, and administrative updates to the Renewal Materials, and may provide additional documentation or responses requested by NYSED in connection with the charter renewal application, provided that any material changes requiring Board approval shall be presented to the Board for further consideration and approval; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all actions previously taken by the Board and the School's authorized officers and representatives in preparing, reviewing, finalizing, and submitting the Renewal Materials, to the extent consistent with the foregoing resolutions, are hereby ratified, confirmed, and approved; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be entered into the official minutes of the Board and maintained with the School's corporate records.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of Neighborhood Charter Schools at a meeting held on September 24, 2026, at which a quorum was present, and that such resolution remains in full force and effect as of the date set forth below.

Date: September 24, 2026

Heidi Baker
Secretary, Board of Trustees

Cliff Schneider
Chair, Board of Trustees