

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark
Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday, September 16, 2019
108 South 9th Street (Fairmount/Liberty Campus)

The trustees were in attendance: Rick Rieder, Bob Howitt, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Ezdebar Abubatab, Larry Evans, Trisha Scipio, Juliana Worrell, Ravi Bellur. Absent trustees: James Verrilli, Nicole Bearce, Scott Sleyster, Tom Redburn. Also attending were: Karin Gerald, Mike Mann, Molly Chandler, Adna Zejnilovic

The meeting was called to order at 6:16 p.m. by Mr. Rieder, who noted that the meeting had been duly publicized, as required by law, in the Star Ledger and El Coqui.

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the August 12th Board meeting.

Mr. Mann, principal at Washington Park High School, gave a presentation on the Extended High School Report, where he brought in seniors from North Star to share their experiences. Mr. Mann revealed the outcomes of student participation in Speech and Debate teams, which had traveled and placed rank in national competitions. Seniors presented on their experiences on participating in science research at NJIT, organizing a LGBTQ Morning Circle Presentation, creating original Digital Music Production content, and doing an economic research internship with Prudential, under Bruce Phelps.

Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo commented on the evolving curriculum, emphasizing the importance of sustained involvement in activities throughout high school.

Ms. Abuhatab shared the Parental Involvement Report. She gave details on Back to School Night which occurred at all the campuses, indicating that North Star welcomed incoming K-8 classes, gave voting registrations to families, running advocacy in the form of opt-in parent applications that update on daily school operations, and celebrating the start of the new academic year.

Ms. Gerald opened the floor to public comments:

There were two cases brought forth. The mother of student SM at West Side Park Middle School brought forth concerns of bullying and communication challenges with school leaders. She asked for North Star to put a program or system into place against bullying, such as but not limited to, placing locked drop-boxes across campus for those who are too scared to report instances personally and integrating anti-bullying presentations, workshops and/or programs into instructional time to address bullying schoolwide. The second student AL, who is a student at Central Middle School, was represented by her father, her mother and her cousin. The family expresses similar concerns around bullying and communication issues with school staff.

The board adjourned to an executive session at 7:24PM. The board returned from the executive session at 7:42PM.

Ms. Gerald presented the personnel hires Kaelin Hernandez for the regional team; Todtanisha Waters, Hugo Iglesias for Lincoln Park High School; Jaron Julien for Washington Park High School; Lois Schilling, Bridgette Williams, Pascal Faustin for Central Avenue Middle School; Femmy Akene

for Clinton Hill Middle School; Kathlen Silva, Allyson Bragg for Vailsburg Middle School; Mario Pierpaoli, Walline Alphonse for West Side Park Middle School; Busairi Savage, Alicia Padeiro for Alexander Elementary School; Shantel Wilson for Fairmount Elementary School; Kayla Flintall, Kai Zook for Liberty Elementary School; Justin Cruz, Leanna Lynch, Tanya Minott for Lincoln Park Elementary School; Doris Gutierrez, Keon Benton for Vailsburg Elementary School; Athena Barkley, Safiyyah Hasan for West Side Park Elementary School.

After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted to approve the motion to hire the aforementioned personnel.

Ms. Gerald presented an External Affairs/Advocacy Update. She shared the recent mention of North Star on the Today Show.

The committee recommends that student MG be suspended for 45 days (returning on 11/6/19) and their parent be banned. The committee also recommends that students TS and JBS be subject to 15 days of on-site learning (returning on 9/27/19) and that student JW be subject to 10 days of on-site learning (returning on 9/26/19). Lastly, the committee also recommends that student JJ be subject to 10 days of on-site learning (returning on 9/26/19). After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the aforementioned recommendation.

Mr. Bellur presented the Financial Report. There were no formal subjects discussed as the first month of school had not yet ended.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve the HIB Self-Assessment. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve HIB Self-Assessment.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve the Title I Schoolwide Plan. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the Title I Schoolwide Plan.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve the ERESC Contract for Special Education Services. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the ERESC Contract for Special Education Services.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve the MCGA Contract for Special Education Services. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the MCGA Contract for Special Education Services.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve the Application of the NJEIF Safety Grant. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the Application of the NJEIF Safety Grant

Ms. Gerald presented a resolution to approve the On-Site Learning Program. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the On-Site Learning Program.

Ms. Gerald presented a resolution to approve the Settlement Agreement between Maja Mendez and North Star Academy. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in the Resolution to Approve the Settlement Agreement between Maja Mendez and North Star Academy.

Ms. Gerald presented a resolution to approve the HIB Investigation Report. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the HIB Investigation Report.

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve resolutions to accept the aforementioned resolutions and reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS Monday, November 18th, 2019 at 6:00 pm, AT THE LINCOLN PARK CAMPUS (108 South 9th Street). Ravi will bring dinner.