

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark
Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday March 18th, 2019
Central Ave Campus (72 Central Ave)

The trustees were in attendance: Rick Rieder, Lawrence Evans, Jamey Verrilli, Bob Howitt, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Ezdebar Abubatab, Trisha Scipio-Derrick. Also attending were: Michael Ambriz, Michael Mann, Juliana Worrell, Karin Gerald, Tara Marlovits, Brett Peiser, Barbara Martinez, Elizabeth Lynch, Amethyst Charette, Anna Taylor. Absent trustees: Ravi Bellur, Tom Redburn, Nicole Bearce, Scott Sleyster.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Mr. Reider, who noted that the meeting had been duly publicized, as required by law, in the Star Ledger and Luso Americano.

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 28th, 2018 Board meeting.

Mr Mann introduced the College Guidance presentation, presented by Ms. Amethyst Charette and Ms. Anna Taylor. He noted this is our final year presenting only for one school, as LPHS will have its first senior class next year. Amethyst highlighted all early decision highlights. For the 2nd consecutive year North Star has surpassed the # within Uncommon for early decision acceptance and enrollment. Ms. Taylor shared that NSA has a 54% graduation and persistence rate, nearly matching the 58% in the top income quartile. Alumni counselors have implemented a program this year to support alumni setting and working towards GPA goals. To illustrate the impacts of the program, Ms. Taylor described 2 case studies of students succeeding. Both highlighted key challenges and shared their strategic planning goals to mitigate these challenges for next year.

Mr. Brett Peiser presented an update on Uncommon Schools. He shared an updated timeline for the revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Uncommon Schools and North Star Academy. He shared that the original MOU was split into 2 unique documents: the Master Services Agreement and the Services and Fee Addendum. Keeping these separated will give more flexibility to modify in the future. Mr. Peiser shared the timeline to have the new MOU in place.

Mr. Ambriz shared a brief Development update. He highlighted the current gap in fundraising, and that the Development team expects to close by the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Martinez shared an update on Advocacy. She highlighted North Star's recent media coverage, including press in NJTV News, The Wall Street Journal, Education Post, and NJ.com. She highlighted a program with a North Star/ Newark district partnership.

Mr. Ambriz presented the resolution to authorize the CFO to apply and sign for credit on behalf of North Star Academy. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as outlined in the Resolution to authorize Officer to conduct banking transactions and apply for credit.

Mr. Ambriz presented the updates to the 2019-20 Family Handbooks and Code of Conduct. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as outlined in the Resolution to approve 2019-2020 Elementary, Middle, and High School Parent Handbooks (incl. Code of Conduct).

Mr. Ambriz presented the resolution to approve the 2019-20 Title I Parent Involvement Policy. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as outlined in the Resolution to approve the 2019-2020 Title I Parent Involvement Policy and School-Parent Compact.

Mr. Ambriz presented the resolution to appoint the 2018-19 auditor. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as outlined in the Resolution to appoint 2018-2019 Auditor.

Mr. Ambriz presented the resolution to appoint the 2018-19 school business administrator. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as outlined in the Resolution to appoint 2018-2019 School Business Administrator.

Mr. Ambriz presented the resolution to refuse ESSA carryover funds. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as outlined in the Resolution to approve Refusal of ESSA Carryover Funds for Targeted Programming.

Mr. Ambriz opened the floor for public comments; there were none.

A motion was made to move to executive session. It having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:19 pm.

Mr. Ambriz shared an update on recent discipline incidents before the NSA Student Hearing Committee. Parents in all of the cases signed waivers. The committee recommended that student AD be suspended for 30 days (returning on 3/15/19); student EH be suspended for 30 days (returning on 3/19/19); student TK be suspended for 30 days (returning on 3/19/19); student RS be suspended for 30 days (returning on 3/21/19); student KD be suspended for 60 days (returning on 6/4/19); and student JP be suspended for 64 days (through remainder of school year). After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the aforementioned recommendations.

After declaring a desire to return to open session, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene in open session at 7:34pm

Mr. Ambriz presented the personnel hires Vanessa Bermudez and Joanna Zampas for NSA Leadership/ Shared Regional Team; Edward Acosta and Halbi Shadi Matthew for Lincoln Park HS; Carolina Durand Acosta for Vailsburg MS; Caique Nascimento for West Side Park MS; Stefanie Henkel for Central Ave MS; Naijasia Thomas for Vailsburg ES; Sara Freeman and Lauren Sliwinski for West Side Park ES; Angelia Palmer for Liberty ES; and Crystal Goodman for Lincoln Park ES. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the aforementioned individuals.

Mr. Ambriz shared updates from the Finance Committee and presented the Financial Report. The following subjects were discussed:

- Budget Transfers
- Check Register and Purchase Orders, 1/1/19 – 2/28/19

- Treasurer's Report, 1/1/19 – 2/28/19

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

Mr Ambriz reminded board members they will need to complete NJDOE Ethics Nondisclosure forms this spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS Monday, May 20th at 6:00 pm, AT THE NORTH STAR
VAILSBURG CAMPUS (24 Hazlewood Ave). Nicole will bring dinner.