

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark
Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday August 15th, 2016
600 Clinton Avenue (Clinton Hill Campus)

The trustees were in attendance: Ravi Bellur, Bob Howitt, Rick Rieder, Lawrence Evans, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, and James Verrilli. Absent trustees: Trisha Scipio-Derrick, Jana Williams and Nicole Bearce. Also attending were: Michael Ambriz, Mike Mann, Serena Savarirayan, and Diane Flynn.

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 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 June 13th Board meeting.

Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo presented the State of North Star, which is the annual review of North Star's State test data, summary progress against its 2015-16 strategic goals, and identification of 2016-17 priorities. Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo explained the theme of this year's All-Staff Retreat, Love & Revolution, inspired by the musical Hamilton. He reviewed the academic assessment results from the 2015-16 year. Elementary students in grades K-2 continued to perform well on the TerraNova assessment, although campuses varied more in achievement levels than in years past. On the PARCC exam, the trend of variation among campuses continued, particularly in ELA. Both elementary and middle schools had varying assessment results at nearly every grade level and content area, with some campuses performing extraordinarily well and others falling a bit below. Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo suggested that these variances could be due to multiple factors, such as experience level of each school's principal and instructional leaders, strength of network Deans of Curriculum and Instruction, and staff turnover. However, in every assessment, all schools outperformed the New Jersey statewide average. Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo highlighted the instructional and operational priorities of North Star for the 2016-17 school year:

- Get teachers smarter at their content
- 30-Day Playbook for school culture
- Focus on struggling schools/struggling cohorts
- Tightly manage two new school launches (LPHS and ES6)
- Advocacy

The leadership team presented the personnel hires of Janessa Hernaez and Latisha Johnson for the school support team; Joya Anderson, Alison Chaplin, Samaa Elbery, Latoya Gadsden, Krystal Marte, A-Nam Nguyen, George Petrou, Luis Rincon, Caitlin Stillwell, and Lamont Williams for Washington Park High School; Tasha Hester for Lincoln Park High School; Da'Jia Cornick, Dejanee Green, Jamie Saltamachia, and Cedric Thorbes for Downtown Middle School; Stephanie Conn, Bethany Davis, Alexandra Dole, and Vy Duong Graham for Clinton Hill Middle School; Clifford Ernst, Renzo Flores, Natasha Frieson, Christopher Gregory, Jaclyn Lado, and Dajaita Morris for Vailsburg Middle School; Portia Branch, Jessica Brazer, Joseph Ellis, Sneha Fadia, Michael Haines, Brian Harrington, Jerry Holley, Geoffrey Porasky, Crystal Santiago, and Atif Usman for West Side Park Middle School; Tiffany Hazzard for Central Avenue Middle School; Rafael Acosta, Lori Becker, Ebony Connor, Kaitlyn Cotter, Nailah Davis, Jaime Giordano, Rebecca McCormick, LaToya McKenith, Aldo Mogro, Erin Nolan, Caitlin Rotondo, and Yvette Wade for Vailsburg Elementary School; Ralph Densing, William Evans, Stephanie Joseph, Samira Morton, Samantha Mulreed, Daniel Smith, and Reba Stanley for West Side Park Elementary School; Walfrin Batista, Isabella Bellini, Quadirah Cannon, Daisha Davis, Devon Descalzi, Sean Finan, Maniyah Levant, Courtney Mahnken, Samantha Marchan, Melanie Marconi, Sean Pauls, Kayla Sullivan, Kimberly Surko, and Allison Williams for Fairmount Elementary School; Monica Adams, Sarah Dela Cruz, Caitlyn Dill, Diana Garces, Alexandra Gassaway,

Vanessa Gonzalez, Christine Lynch, Farhanah Mohamad, Lise Strigel, and Halimah Tillery-Williams for Liberty Elementary School; Tracy Christiani, Cori DiRupio, and Melanie Rodriguez for Alexander Street Elementary School. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the aforementioned individuals.

Mr. Ambriz presented the final 2015-16 Annual Report for approval. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the 2015-16 annual report as described in Resolution to Approve Final 2015-16 Annual Report.

Mr. Ambriz facilitated the annual review of North Star's Title I schoolwide plan. Following Mr. Bambrick's review of 2015-16 assessment data during the State of North Star presentation earlier in the meeting, Mr. Ambriz proposed that the high student achievement results could be credited to the strategies implemented as part of the 2015-16 Title I schoolwide program, including an elementary school co-teaching model, and supplemental ELA instruction at the middle school level. The committee reviewed these strategies of the 2015-16 schoolwide program, and determined that the priority needs at North Star Academy for the 2016-17 school year are as follows: Closing the Achievement Gap, ELA Instruction, and Math Instruction. It was determined that, in order to continue to address these priority needs, the following strategies would be implemented for the coming school year: a co-teaching model at the elementary school level, and dual ELA and dual Math instruction at the middle school level. Following discussion, members of the Title I stakeholder committee approved North Star Academy's Title I schoolwide plan for the 2016-17 school year.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to approve a maximum travel budget. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the Maximum Travel Budget.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to award bid and execute contract for security monitoring and maintenance provider. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Award Bid and Execute Contract for Security Monitoring and Maintenance Provider.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to establish a special education program. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Establish a Special Education Program.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to adopt amended and restated bylaws. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Adopt Amended and Restated Bylaws.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to approve comprehensive equity plan policy. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve Comprehensive Equity Plan Policy.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to approve the use of non-federal funding for school lunch program. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Approve the Use of Non-Federal Funding for School Lunch Program.

Mr. Rieder opened the floor for public comments: There were none.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to certify implementation of corrective action plan for FY15. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to Certify Implementation of Corrective Action Plan for FY15.

Mr. Ambriz presented the Financial Report. The following subjects were discussed:

- Budget and Secretary's Report, as of 6/30/16
- Check register and Purchase Orders, 6/1/16 – 6/30/16
- Treasurer's Report, 6/1/16 – 6/30/16

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS Monday, SEPTEMBER 19th at 6:00 pm, AT THE NORTH STAR VAILSBURG CAMPUS (24 Hazelwood Avenue).