

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark
Board of Trustees Meeting
6:00 p.m., Monday January 30th, 2017
120 Livingston Street (West Side Park Middle School)

The trustees were in attendance: Bob Howitt, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Rick Rieder, Ravi Bellur, Scott Sleyster, Thomas Redburn, and Ezdehar Abu-Hatab. Absent trustees: Nicole Bearce, Lawrence Evans, Trisha Scipio-Derrick, and James Verrilli.

Also attending were: Michael Ambriz, Mike Mann, Serena Savarirayan

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 November 14th, 2016 Board meeting previously distributed to the Board members.

Eric Diamon, Principal of Vailsburg Middle School, Tonya Ballard, Principal of Central Avenue Middle School, Jody Jones, Principal of Clinton Hill Middle School, and Vernon Riley, Principal of West Side Park Middle School, presented the Middle Schools update. Two 7th grade teachers and presented a mock guided seminar modeling incorporating increased student driven discourse in the middle schools.

Mr. Ambriz presented Thomas Redburn to the Board who shall temporarily fill the vacancy in the Board of Trustees caused by an increase in the number of At-Large Representatives. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve this board member into the vacant seat until the next annual meeting of the Board.

Mr. Bambrick presented key data and observations from the second round of interim assessments in Kindergarten through 8th grade. At the elementary school level, Alexander Street Elementary Schools' scores were notably high with Vailsburg, Fairmount, West Side Park, and Liberty bunched close together; Elementary School 6 and West Side Park Elementary Schools struggled more, and those leaders are receiving more development from their Associate Managing Director. At the middle school level, Clinton Hill is projected to be even stronger than their performance from last year. Central Ave had lower scores across middle schools last year and is also projected to improve significantly. Washington Park and Lincoln Park High Schools performed slightly higher in their IA #2s.

The leadership team presented the personnel hires of Diana Maldonado for all North Star campuses, Norvella Dunwoody, Patrick Ferante, Kamlesh Nahata, Maura Schmitz, and James Stephenson for Washington Park High School; Nikki Jones for Downtown Middle School; Ashlee Judon and Aime Lonsdorf for West Side Park MS; LaKasha Brantley and Rana Hamed for Clinton Hill Middle School; Meghan Donovan for West Side Park Elementary School; Kendell Briggs for Fairmount Elementary School; Judy Noel for Liberty Elementary School; Akisha Robinson for Alexander Elementary School; and Yineisi Gonzalez for Elementary School 6. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the aforementioned individuals.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to authorize use of federal funds for employee salaries. After discussion, it having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution as described in Resolution to authorize Use of Federal Funds for Employee Salaries.

Mr. Ambriz presented a resolution to review the HIB (Harrassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) investigation forms. The recommendation of the HIB investigation of AD is no further action as this was not found to be

HIB. After discussion, the board agreed with this recommendation. The recommendation of the HIB investigation of AS includes a 30-day suspension, which was previously approved by the Board, as well as therapeutic counseling. After discussion, the board agreed with this recommendation.

Finance Committee Updates

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

- Check register and Purchase Orders, 11/1/16 – 12/31/16
- Budget and Secretary's Report, 11/1/16 – 12/31/16
- Treasurer's Report, 11/1/16 – 12/31/16

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve resolutions to accept the aforementioned reports. The board certifies that there are no overexpenditures of funds, budget line transfers are reviewed and approved, and the bill list is approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING IS Monday March 30th, 2017 at 6:00 pm, AT NORTH STAR CENTRAL AVE MIDDLE SCHOOL (72 Central Ave). Nicole Bearce will bring dinner.