

**North Star Academy Charter School of Newark**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**6:00 p.m., Monday January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020**  
**(Alexander Street Campus)**

*The trustees in attendance were: Rick Rieder, Bob Howitt, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Scott Sleyster, Jamey Verrilli, Nicole Bearce, Lawrence Evans, Thomas Redburn. Also attending were: Karin Gerald, Michael Ambriz, Mike Mann, Tara Marlovits, Steven Creekmur. Absent trustees: Paul-Bambrick-Santoyo, Ravi Bellur, Trisha Scipio*

The meeting was called to order at 6:23 p.m. by Rick 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 18, 2019 Board meeting.

Ms. Gerald shared campus updates and events that have taken place in the last month. We successfully completed our Kwanzaa celebrations throughout our campuses, and it was a fun joyous event to celebrate the holidays with our families and students. We also had a successful Alumni Day; 76 alums joined us at Lincoln Park High School and Washington Park High School to come back and talk to our current seniors on life after high school and their college experiences.

Mr. Mann gave the Educational Program update and reviewed the Quarter 2 Interim Assessment data for grades K-12. He also highlighted some of our high school students and their early college acceptances. To date, Washington Park High School has an early acceptance rate of 78% and Lincoln Park High School is at 65%.

Ms. Gerald gave an update on External Affairs and what is currently taking place on the local and state level. Ezdehar Abuhatab also gave an update on Parent Advocacy and the current projects that are happening with our parent advocates.

Ms. Gerald opened the floor to public comments:

There were concerns raised by two individuals alleging derogatory and racially biased language used by staff at Lincoln Park High School. The first concern was brought forth by parent SS as it related to comments made of and to students, and the second by former staff member TW regarding the work culture during her time there.

Parent SR raised concern around the process of student placements in courses, and also commented on the tone and microaggression that is currently taking place within the school that prevents students from advocating for themselves.

The board adjourned to executive session at 7:28 pm.

The board discussed recent developments surrounding discipline and personnel matters.

Ms. Gerald presented to the new hires to the board: Cheyenne Bridgewater, Latoya Raymond, Mary Adarkwah for Alexander Street Elementary School; John Bolsch for Central Avenue Middle School; Brian Grosso, Jean Camacho, Kimberly Hafley, Marcus Morrison for Lincoln Park High School; Cordel Elcock, Malik Jones, Tasza Carter for Lincoln Park Middle School; Gabrielle Louis for Vailsburg Elementary School; Alex Sarkodie for Vailsburg Middle School; Christian Quiroz, Dennis Leonard, Haneefah Norman, Michael Agyei, Mya Rodriguez-Mendoza, Samantha Post, Sheila Sisimit, Steven Creekmur for Washington Park High School; Jack Kellogg for West Side Park Middle School; Janine Lytle, Rozhelle Mejia, Shantae Kemp for Lincoln Park Elementary School.

Tara Marlovits provided an update on the City Fund collaboration.

Ms. Gerald and Mr. Mann reviewed the student discipline cases since the last meeting and shared the committee's recommendations for each case. The committee recommends that student JC be suspended for 45 days (return date is 2/24/2020).

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 8:18PM.

Having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the hiring of the aforementioned new hires. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the aforementioned Student Hearing Committee recommendations.

Ms. Gerald present a resolution to review the HIB Investigative Findings for discussion. It having been moved and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the HIB investigation findings.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve the ESS contract for Paraprofessional and Teacher Assistant Support, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to renew Lampley contract for Snow Removal for approval, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the document.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to renew the Unitemp contract for HVAC. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve and execute the Uniform State Memorandum of Understanding between Education and Law Enforcement Officials. After discussion, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve Check Register and Purchase Orders, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve Budget, Balance Sheet, and Treasurer's Report, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve Certificate of Implementation of FY19 Corrective Action Plan, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve revised FY20 Budget ,it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve Line of Credit Renewal, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve implementation of Arbiter Ref System for vendor payment system, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve FY20 ESSA Staff Allocation, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald presented the resolution to approve revised FY20 IDEA Amendment, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Ms. Gerald introduced Steven Creekmur and the board unanimously approved Steven as a Parent Representative for a term of one year ending September 30, 2020. Steven Creekmur is the Varsity High School Basketball Coach and has been heavily involved at North Star as a parent volunteer at Alexander Street Elementary, and parent advocacy.

Ezdehar Abuhatab was also approved as a Parent Representative for another year term ending September 30, 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING is Monday, MARCH 16, 2020 at 6:00 pm, at THE NORTH STAR VAILSBURG CAMPUS (24 Hazelwood Avenue). Jamey will bring dinner.