

North Star Academy Charter School of Newark

Board of Trustees Meeting

Tuesday May 30th, 2023 | 6:00 pm

Zoom

The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Trisha Scipio, Steve Creekmur, Lawrence Evans, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Ann Borowiec, Scott Sleyster and Corey Madison.

Also present: Sam Messer, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Jon Hillery, Mike Mann, Lisa Krempa, Meghan Fitzgerald, and Barbara Martinez.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Mr. Rieder, who noted that the meeting had been duly publicized, as required by law, in the *Star-Ledger* and *The Americano* with updated address information posted on the North Star Academy website.

Mrs. Messer began the meeting by introducing Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Krempa to the board meeting.

Ms. Scipio moved to approve the following minutes:

- 1.1 Approval of 3/20/23 Executive Session Minutes
- 1.2 Approval of 3/20/23 Public Session Minutes

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Mr. Rieder asked for a motion to go into executive session. A motion was made to move to an executive session by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Borowiec. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:10pm to discuss legal and real estate matters.

At the end of the executive session, a motion was made by Mr. Sleyster and then seconded by Ms. Borowiec to return to the public session. The trustees voted unanimously to return to the public session at 6:38 pm.

Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Krempa presented on the state of special education. They updated the board on how many students we support with IEPs and 504s and where we are with our special education support services.

They let the board know that we currently support 9% of our student population with IEPs.

Ms. Fitzgerald and Ms. Krempa then moved on to present about the social work team and our new partnership with Imagine- Center for Grief and Loss.

She let us know the kind of support that the social work team gives and how they were recently trained by Imagine to be able to give better support to our families that are experiencing drastic changes in their lives.

Mrs. Messer then gave an academic update. She talked about our interim assessment scores in Literacy and Math in comparison to the scores before the pandemic. She and Mr. Bambrick informed the board of what steps have been taken for next year to reach our goals.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Scipio to approve the personnel report. The trustees voted unanimously to approve.

Mrs. Messer then presented the following Finance and Facilities items to the board for approval:

- 3.1 NJSEC Resolution
- 3.2 Resolution to adopt 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget
- 3.3 Resolution to Approve Bank Transfers
- 3.4 Resolution to Approve Investment in Permitted Securities
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A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Scipio to approve the finance and facilities items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the financial resolutions.

Mrs. Messer shared Administrative Resolutions for board approval.

- 4.1a Board Resolution for Inventory Policy
- 4.1b Procurement Policy
- 4.2 Resolution to Approve Food Services Provider
- 4.3 Resolution to Approve Student Transportation Provider
- 4.4 Adoption of HIB Report A motion was made by Mr. Sleyster and seconded by Ms. Bearce to approve the administrative items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the administrative resolutions and reports.

A motion was made by Mr. Evans and seconded by Ms. Borowiec to uphold the recommendations of the Student Hearing Committee.

Mr. Reider opened the floor to public comments.

Dana Madison spoke first. She thanked the board for allowing her son, Corey Madison, to have a space to advocate for his fellow peers and gain experience with talking to adults. She expressed to the board what a wonderful opportunity it was and that the only thing she would like to see next year is more parent involvement.

Jasmine Morrison spoke next. She congratulated the board on a smooth school year and particularly wanted to highlight the schools' athletics departments. She wanted the board to know that the coaches and staff are going above and beyond their job descriptions with our students and that she can see it making a huge difference in her children specifically.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Scipio and seconded by Mr. Evans to adjourn the board of trustees meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held via zoom on June 21st.