

**North Star Academy Charter School of Newark  
Board of Trustees Meeting Public Session**

Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 | 5:00 pm

Zoom

*The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Thomas Redburn, Jamey Verrilli, Trisha Scipio, Steve Creekmur, Lawrence Evans, Scott Sleyster and Corey Madison.*

*Also present: Sam Messer, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Jon Hillery, Mike Mann, Amethyst Charette, Jon Hillery, Christie Carvalho. Alfred CamCam, Joyceline Bonus, Madison Gilmore, and Amari Glover*

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 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 the graduating seniors from Lincoln Park High School and welcoming them to the board meeting.

Ms. Scipio moved to approve the following minutes:

- 1.1 Approval of 5/22/23 Public Session Minutes
- 1.2 Approval of 5/22/23 Executive Session Minutes

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Ms. Charette presented on the state of the alumni program. She updated the board on what her team has done to mitigate past problems. They increased PD with more specific team goals in mind. She informed the board that the Alumni team has found that the longer it takes to graduate the harder it takes to graduate. She also let the board know that more seniors that didn't plan to go to college changed course this year.

Ms. Charette highlighted how they have been able to have so much success with outreach to Alumni. She credited the success to being able to have open family communication, implementing a campus angels' program and hosting alumni events like Alumni Day, Career Expos, Class Reunions, Alumni Photoshoots and an Alumni Skating event. *The Alumni Team has increased their database with opportunities that may have an alternative pathway. They strengthened relationships with the Special Education team to make sure that our students with IEPs are supported beyond high school.*

Ms. Charette went on to describe some of the challenges that they are still working to improve upon like declining persistence, their growing alumni network, limited financial assistance, pandemic relief, undocumented student funding and emergency funding.

Ms. Charette informed the board that for the upcoming school year they are working to develop a financial assistance plan that reimagines how we award scholarships, emergency funding and incentives to alumni to improve college persistence and alumni engagement.

*Our graduating seniors, Alfred CamCam, Joyceline Bonus, Madison Gilmore, and Amari Glover from Lincoln Park High School gave the board their reflection of their time at North Star.*

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

6:01pm 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 6:12 pm.

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

Ms. Carvalho presented a financial update to the board. She informed the board that North Star *is expected to maintain a strong financial position for FY24.*

This summer, Operations and Instructional leadership will work with the USI Finance team to create the long-term plan for financial sustainability, beginning with the FY25 budget incorporating ESSER roll-off. •Work will include evaluating and prioritizing ESSER funded programming (\$3.5M below), identifying expense savings and trade-offs with other programming where necessary, and considering various enrollment scenarios

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

- 3.1 Resolution to Approve FY24 Maximum Travel Budget
- 3.2 Resolution to Approve FY2023-24 Final Budget
- 3.3 Resolution to Approve FY23 Auditor Appt w-fees
- 3.4 Resolution to Approve SBA Appointment
- 3.5 Certification of Implementation

A motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Mr. Sleyster to approve the finance and facilities items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the financial resolutions.

Mrs. Messer shared Administrative Resolutions for board approval.

- 4.1 Client Agreement-Therapy Source
- 4.2 Resolution to Award and Execute Contract with Dr Hanes and Associates
- 4.3 Resolution to Award and Execute Contract with Therapy Source
- 4.4 2023 Safety Grant Application
- 4.5 Resolution to Approve the 23-24 NSA Student Handbook

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

Mr. Reider opened the floor to public comments.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Scipio and seconded by Mr. Redburn to adjourn the board of trustees meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:58 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held at **18 Washington Pl. on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023**