

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

Tuesday, September 26th, 2023 | 6:00 pm
18 Washington Pl. Newark, NJ 07102

The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Thomas Redburn, Jamey Verrilli, Trisha Scipio, Steve Creekmur, Lawrence Evans, Scott Sleyster, Ann Borowiec, Ravi Bellur and Khadijah Jalloh.

Also present: Sam Messer, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Jon Hillery, Mike Mann, Jon Hillery, Mary Ann Villanueva and Maya Roth Bisignano.

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 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.

Ms. Scipio moved to approve the following minutes:

- *Approval of 9/26/23 Public Session Minutes*
- *Approval of 9/26/23 Executive Session Minutes*

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Bellur and seconded by Mr. Sleyster to approve the board members:

- *1.3 Appointment of Board Members for a Two- Year Term*

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Ms. Scipio to approve the parent board reps:

- *1.4 Appointment of Parent Board Members for a One-Year Term*

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

A motion was made by Ms. Scipio and seconded by Mr. Bellur to approve the board members:

- *1.5 Resolution to Appoint Student Representative to the Board*

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 Ms. Scipio and seconded by Mr. Bellur. 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. Bellur 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.

Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo presented an assimilation exercise to help the board understand the college selection process: Who Gets In & Why. He listed the key factors that increase college entrance & persistence. He illustrated to the board how our College Counselors have applied these lessons to our NSA High Schools.

Ms. Messer and Mr. Bambrick-Santoyo showed the board two-line graphs that indicate the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 3rd to 8th grade NJ-SLA Math in Spring 2023. She then went on to also show two-line graphs that indicate the percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations on the 3rd to 8th grade NJ-SLA ELA in Spring 2023.

We have set four organizational priorities for next year. We plan to dramatically accelerate learning, enroll and retain our students, attract and retain our talent and the new priority this year –is to improve college enrollment and persistence.

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

Ms. Carvalho presented a financial update to the board. She informed the FY24 budget supported by ESSER will be able to absorb the impact if trend continues through the school year.

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

- *3.1 Resolution to Approve June, July, August Financial Reports*
- *3.2 Resolution to Approve IDEA Application*
- *3.3 Resolution to Authorize the Use of Federal Funds for Employee Salaries: Final FY23 Adjustments*
- *3.4 Resolution to Approve Elementary and Secondary ESEA Consolidated Application*
- *3.5 Resolution to Approve Use of Federal Funds for Initial Employee Salaries*
- *3.6 Resolution to Approve Submission of High Impact Tutoring Grant*

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:

- *4.1-4.10 Resolutions to Approve Out of District Placement Contracts*

A motion was made by Mr. Bellur and seconded by Mr. Evans to approve the administrative items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the resolutions.

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 Mr. Evans and seconded by Mr. Verrilli to adjourn the board of trustees meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:32 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held via **zoom on December 4th, 2023.**