

The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Ravi Bellur, Steve Creekmur, Lawrence Evans, Trisha Scipio, and Jamey Verrilli.

Also present: Sam Messer, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Mike Mann, Brett Peiser, Julie Jackson, John Powell, Brendan Campbell, Maya Roth- Bisignano, Jenn Da Silva and Mae Garcia.

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 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.

Mr. Sleyster moved to approve the following minutes. Mr. Scipio seconded the motion:

- Approval of 12/9/24 Public Session Minutes
- Approval of 12/9/24 Executive Session Minutes

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Mr. Rieder thanked Sam for all of her work for North Star and the amount of time and dedication and that she has put into making sure that our students have the best possible education. The rest of the board took turns thanking Sam and wishing her the best on her next career path.

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. Verrilli. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:20 pm to discuss legal matters, personnel and real estate.

At the end of the executive session, a motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and then seconded by Mr. Evans to return to the public session. The trustees voted unanimously to return to the public session at 7:03 pm.

Mr. Campbell then presented to the board on the Master Teachers Institute. He went on to tell the board that the Master Teachers Institute aims to transform teaching by raising the bar for top educators, ensuring each school has a model of excellence, and developing outstanding teachers to extend their classroom tenure. Inspired by *Leverage Leadership*, the program follows a cohort model with performance-based requirements to accelerate growth for high-potential educators.

There are 49 total candidates, with 40% from North Star Academy. All of which are receiving individualized coaching from Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Laura Fern, and Jessica Rabinowitz.

Currently, 95% of North Star candidates are on track to meet their student achievement goals, demonstrating the program's effectiveness in fostering excellence in teaching.

The board got to hear directly from Mae Garcia, a Kindergarten teacher in our MTI program. She is in her 10th year of teaching and still finds the program to be extremely helpful. She boasted about the constant and specific feedback and being able to have teacher partners across the regions.

Ms. Messer then went on to present the academic update. IA1 data showed largely stagnant math results in NSA. Since then, regional superintendents have increased the number of math walkthroughs, set regional objectives around math performance, and fine-tuned the approach for state exam season to accelerate student achievement. While growth compared to last year is

stagnant, Newark is the only USI region to have already met their 24-25 goal for state exam proficiency after IA2. All grade levels of ELA are projected to surpass NED based on 23-24 numbers.

Ms. Messer also went on to let the board know that 86% of students from the class of 2025 have been accepted to a 4-year college which is a 4% increase from last year. They have been accepted into schools like Duke University, Middlebury College, Boston University, Syracuse University and many more.

Ms. Messer opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments.

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

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

- *3.1 Approval To Cover Deficit in the Food Nutrition Program*
- *3.2 Approval To Cover Deficit in the Enrichment Program*
- *3.3 Approval of FY24 Audit*

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

Ms. Messer shared Administrative Resolutions for board approval.

- *4.1 Approval of MOA with Law Enforcement*
- *4.2 Approval of 2023-2024 HIB Report*

A motion was made by Mr. Verrilli and seconded by Ms. Scipio to approve the administrative items. The trustees voted unanimously to approve the administrative resolutions.

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

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 7:57p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held via **zoom on March 24th, 2025.**