

The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Julie Jackson, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Ann Borowiec, Steve Creekmur, Trisha Scipio, and Jamey Verrilli.

Also present: Maya Roth- Bisignano, Timeese Townes-Pratt, Brett Peiser, Mike Mann, John Powell, Jenn Da Silva, Michael Taubman, and Scott Kern.

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.

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

- Approval of 3/24/25 Public Session Minutes
- Approval of 3/24/25 Executive Session Minutes

The trustees voted unanimously in approval.

Ms. Roth started the meeting by showing some joy. The board watched a short clip of Mr. Rieder's commencement speech at Emory this past week. She then went on to share that 93% the Class of 2025 has been accepted to a 4-year college and 79% has already enrolled for the 25-26 school year. She reminded the board that in comparison to last year at this time, we only had 30% enrolled due to the issues with FAFSA.

Ms. Roth introduced two Washington Park High School faculty members—Mike Taubman, Director of the 12th Grade Summit Program, and Scott Kern, History Department Chair—who presented to the Board on the integration and implications of artificial intelligence (AI) in the academic experience at North Star Academy.

Mr. Taubman and Mr. Kern provided an overview of the current capabilities of generative AI tools and how these technologies are being utilized across the high school curriculum. They emphasized the importance of empowering students to critically engage with AI and to see themselves as the architects of its future applications.

Mr. Taubman presented Uncommon's guiding principles for AI integration:

- **Respect for Community:** As stewards of personal information from staff and families, Uncommon prioritizes data privacy and exercises caution with AI tools that lack transparency about data use.
- **Human Oversight:** All AI-generated content must be thoroughly reviewed and edited by humans before being used or shared, especially in decision-making contexts.
- **AI as a Compass, Not a Destination:** AI is a support tool that enhances, but does not replace, human judgment. Proper citation is required when AI is used.
- **AI as a Tool, Not a Substitute:** AI should be leveraged to reduce administrative burdens on teachers, allowing them to focus more on student interaction and instruction.

Mr. Kern provided context on the rapid advancements in AI technology. He discussed the latest generation of frontier models—GPT o3, Claude 3.7, and Gemini 2.5—noting their growing ability to "reason" through complex, multi-step problems. He also introduced the concept of "agentic AI," which refers to systems capable of executing intricate tasks independently. Mr. Kern highlighted the global scale of AI development, with major companies and governments participating in what he

described as an AI "arms race." He concluded by noting that while AI continues to advance rapidly, it remains highly resource-intensive in terms of data, energy, and labor.

Mr. Taubman demonstrated the shift toward conversational AI interfaces, showing the Board a personal companion bot developed by Sesame. He then presented an example of agentic AI using the Gemini Deep Research Tool, which accurately sourced 77 references to conduct a comparative analysis of North Star Academy.

He also introduced the concept of the "jagged frontier"—the uneven and unpredictable boundary between tasks AI performs well and those it does not. He explained that while AI can suddenly master complex tasks, it may continue to struggle with simpler ones. Because of this volatility, human expertise remains essential in evaluating where and how AI should be applied.

Mr. Kern shared how AI is being incorporated into instruction within his AP U.S. History course. He developed a custom AI tool that provides students with targeted feedback on Document-Based Question (DBQ) assignments. The tool analyzes both the rubric and teacher comments, identifies specific areas within the essay, and delivers precise suggestions for improvement—saving teachers time and helping students refine their skills more efficiently.

Mr. Taubman described a similar initiative in his 12th Grade Summit class. He created a custom AI bot designed to help students explore how AI might impact their chosen career paths. The Board was invited to interact directly with this bot to experience its functionality firsthand.

Mr. Taubman and Mr. Kern concluded their presentation by emphasizing that while AI holds transformative potential, it is ultimately human judgment that must guide its responsible and effective integration into education and society.

Mr. Rieder asked for a motion to go into executive session. A motion was made to move to an executive session by Ms. Borowiec and seconded by Mr. Creekmur. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:50pm 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 Ms. Borowiec to return to the public session. The trustees voted unanimously to return to the public session at 7:05 pm.

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

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

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

- *3.1 Board Resolution 2025-26 Prelim Budget*

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

Ms. Roth shared Administrative Resolutions for board approval.

- *4.1 Resolution to Appoint an Affirmative Action Team*
- *4.2 Resolution Authorizing The AAT to conduct Needs Assessment and Develop a CEP*
- *4.3 NSA/NJESS Support Services 2025-2026*

- 4.4 NSA/ Hanes 2025-2026 Contract
- 4.5 Resolution to Approve 25-26 Employee Handbook Changes
- 4.6 HIB Report

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

A motion was made by Ms. Abuhatab 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. Verrilli to adjourn the board of trustees meeting. The trustees voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:28p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held via **zoom on June 18th, 2025.**