

NEW VISIONS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II (AMS II)

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II (HUM II)

Minutes for Meeting held at AMS II:

Monday, October 21, 2013 at 5 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Present: Yvette Armstrong, Ron Chalusian (Secretary), Edmund Gaffney, Nancy Grossman, Angel Rodriguez (Chair), Edna Vega

Not Present: David Faber

New Visions Staff: Stephany Martinez, Lori Mei, Jennie Soler-McIntosh

School Staff: Richard Gonzalez (Principal HUM II), Stacey King (Principal AMS II), Sharon John (COO AMS II)

WELCOME

Mr. Rodriguez welcomed everyone by reviewing the agenda.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Ms. Vega made a motion to accept the minutes from September 16, 2013 meeting.

Ms. Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

PRINCIPALS' REPORTS**New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II**

Ms. King began by summarizing the attendance and discharge reports. She noted that attendance is shy of 94% and the School Counselor and Parent Coordinator have already sent letters home and made phone calls to parents of students with excessive absences.

Ms. King noted that AMS II is currently under-enrolled with a total of 236 students for both the 9th and 10th grades. Ms. King explained that there is a

waitlist from which they continue to pull names, and send letters out to parents and students, but parents have expressed concern with transferring their children so late into the school year. Ms. King noted that the Parent Coordinator has presented at community centers and local middle schools and will continue to meet with key community centers and schools in order to garner more community support and enrollment for the current school year. Ms. King also noted that the outreach and presentations made so far to middle schools in district 7 and 8 have positioned AMS II well to receive a high number of applications for the next school year. Ms. Armstrong suggested reaching out to younger siblings of currently enrolled students and Ms. King noted that informational letters have been sent to families about AMS II and its mission, and the school plans to continue to reach out to current families through Parent-Teacher nights and school events. Ms. King answered several questions from the Trustees regarding the impact of a low enrollment on the school budget at AMS II.

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II

Mr. Gonzalez summarized the attendance and discharge reports noting a significant drop in attendance due to an error in the way data were entered into ATS and student attendance at the Scholar Stamp celebration day. Students felt that if they didn't receive a "scholar stamp" during the trimester they did not have to attend school the day of the celebration. Mr. Gonzalez explained to the students at a Town Hall that it has always been and will continue to be mandatory attendance on all academic school days.

Mr. Gonzalez noted that enrollment is also low at HUM II, with 106 9th graders and 115 10th graders, with a total of 221 students currently enrolled. Ms. Vega noted that the schools' names could be a point of confusion for many students and parents and suggested that a blurb or slogan be embedded somewhere in the branding of the schools to help clarify the missions of the schools. Ms. Armstrong noted that sending brochures and information about the schools home with students in December before their winter break could help increase enrollment in January.

The Trustees, Ms. Jennie Soler-McIntosh and Principals discussed the history of the Jane Addams and Samuel Gompers campuses in their respective communities and the current outreach plans for making more families aware of the new schools.

Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on the Performance Series data, noting that most of the testing is finished but there were significant internet issues delaying testing and there are still 40 more tests that must be administered. Mr. Gonzalez noted that the reading data is very good and is a result of the intervention program that was purchased and used. He also noted that the math data is still not where he had hoped but with the new ALEK program there will be an increase in performance at the end of the year.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded by noting the various school events that took place since the last board meeting and unveiled the name of the HUM II basketball team as the Knights.

BOARD BUSINESS

Evaluation of the Charter Management Organization

Mr. Chaluisan updated the Trustees on the evaluation of the CMO, noting that the evaluation was sent to leadership staff at all 6 schools. He then explained the format of the report and discussed the results of the survey and what the biggest items for improvement were along with a response from the CMO addressing each of the concerns. Mr. Chaluisan noted that the next step is to meet with the individual schools to understand their particular areas of concern.

The Trustees asked the Principals several questions and engaged in a deeper discussion regarding the CMO evaluation results.

School Operations Career Ladder

Ms. Lori Mei, Director of Operations, updated the Trustees on discussions with COOs around organizational roles and responsibilities and mapping out a career ladder for all operational staff at the schools. She noted that, as a result of these discussions, job descriptions are more defined as are the job responsibilities. Ms. Sharon John, COO of AMS II, explained that through these conversations, clear roles and responsibilities were better assigned and each member of the operations team can now see a trajectory for their work. Ms. Mei noted that since all the schools have different numbers of operational staff, the goal was to look at all the operational functions that are necessary at the school level and then assign those functions to particular individuals. Ms. Vega noted that issues that tend to come up with business models in schools have to do with the lack of understanding of the Instructional model and mission by the Operations staff. The Instructional team has to trust that the Operations team will make the best business decisions to support instruction.

Round IV Schools and Co-location Update

Mr. Chaluisan updated the Trustees around conversations and meetings that New Visions has had with the two mayoral candidates. He noted that New Visions is engaging the DOE and the State and is working to find a solution. The Trustees discussed the possible changes the new mayor would implement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 6:42 p.m.