



**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 HUM II:  
Monday, November 18, 2013 at 5 p.m.*

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Board Members

Present: Yvette Armstrong, Ron Chaluisan (Secretary), David Faber (Treasure), Edmund Gaffney, Nancy Grossman, Angel Rodriguez (Chair, via phone)

Not Present: Edna Vega

New Visions Staff: Jules Bellamy, Stacy Martin, 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. Chaluisan welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda.

**ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES**

Ms. Grossman made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 21, 2013 meeting. Mr. Gaffney seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

## **PRINCIPALS' REPORT**

### **New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II**

Ms. King presented an update regarding teacher support and goals as well as the instructional program based on the 1st progress report. Ms. King also discussed the community engagement efforts tied to instruction, noting that the Community Engagement team at New Visions has been instrumental in supporting the school's goals.

Ms. King noted that the theme for anchor this year is human rights. The 9th grade will focus on the question "Is water a human right?" and the 10th grade will focus on "Are human rights being violated by governments today?" Students will create speeches around their theme and then turn them into videos similar to TED talks. There will be a series of guest speakers who will speak to students and support them in creating their own speeches and videos.

Ms. King noted that AMS II is offering a series of three Saturday workshops to parents which include: resume writing, interviewing skills and MS Word and Excel. Those workshops revealed that some of the parents also need support to improve their English speaking skills. These parents have been invited into the school to work with the ELL teacher and to utilize the school's Rosetta Stone program. Ms. King responded to numerous clarifying questions asked by the Trustees.

Ms. King noted that her team continues to reach out to middle schools within the school's district and has met with several middle school Principals. These visits have enabled AMS II to build relationships with key community members who could promote the school to scholars as another option for high school.

Ms. King concluded with updates on the new Model U.N. club, Rocking the Boat (challenged based learning experience), robotics program, and male mentoring program at AMS II.

### **New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II**

Mr. Gonzalez began by discussing the attendance report, noting a significant drop in attendance on October 31st due to gang-related activities prevalent in the South Bronx causing parental concern for the safety of children going to and from the school on Halloween. Mr. Gonzalez noted that a letter was sent home the week before Halloween letting parents know that it was a regular school day although dismissal would occur at 4:00 p.m. The campus Principals hoped that the earlier dismissal time might encourage

parents to send their scholars to school. As a whole, attendance has increased from 85.2% to 89.5%. The 9th grade is experiencing greater difficulties getting scholars to school. The 9th grade dropped from 86.% to 82.2% and the 10th grade showed an increase from 87.8% to 91.1%. Mr. Gonzalez noted that scholars experiencing attendance difficulties have been identified by the Social Worker and the School Counselor. The Social Worker has made three home visits in the last month to reach out to families. The School Counselor is working closely with Advisers to discuss the importance of school attendance, especially regarding seat-time. The Attendance Team at HUM II (Principal, AP, School Counselor, Social Worker, and Parent Coordinator) have begun to incentivize attendance at HUM II. The new incentives include: a Pizza party for the Advisory with the highest monthly attendance, Perfect Monthly Attendance Recognition and awarding Scholar Stamps, and a raffle for one of the 50 seats to a Brooklyn Nets game for scholars that come to school for 10 days consecutively with no lateness.

Mr. Gonzalez discussed the discharges and enrollment report, noting that 17 new students have been enrolled and the Parent Coordinator continues to reach out to Middle Schools and 8th grade counselors. He noted that there were seven discharges since the last Board meeting and discussed the reasons why those students were discharged.

Mr. Gonzalez also updated the Board on the Performance Series Assessments, noting that the 9th graders this year have higher needs than the 10th graders last year. This year 51% of the 9th grades are below reading level compared to the 39% last year. Mr. Gonzalez and the Trustees engaged in a lively discussion around the demographics of the current 9th grade and possible interventions that would support their specific needs.

Mr. Gonzalez noted that the Gompers Library is almost complete and is looking great, however there is no furniture in the library. Mr. Gonzalez asked the Trustees for support in finding a way to furnish the library. Ms. Armstrong suggested Mr. Gonzalez reach out to Materials for the Arts, a non-profit organization that supplies furniture and art supplies to schools.

Mr. Gonzalez completed his report with updates on the current community engagement projects that include: Model UN (joint effort with AMS II), Rocking the Boat, and a potential partnership with YUCA Arts program.

## **BOARD BUSINESS**

### **Teacher/ Counselor Evaluation Process**

Mr. Chaluisan summarized the process that occurred with teachers and counselors around their respective evaluation rubrics. Through these conversations, the teachers and counselors helped develop a rubric they felt comfortable with and could understand. The major decision made for this year is that Teachers will be evaluated on Instruction (60%), Organization (20%), and Student Outcomes (20%). Mr. Chaluisan responded to several clarifying questions asked by the Trustees regarding the ways in which student performance and assessments are measured and represented in the rubrics.

### **School Audit**

Ms. Stacy Martin, Chief Operating Officer NVPS, updated the Trustees on the annual school audits, noting that both schools had a clean audit. She noted that the auditors were impressed by the fact that both schools use 80% of their budget for programming. Ms. Armstrong asked about co-location of schools and the possibility of having to pay rent. Ms. Martin responded that she doesn't think it will affect the current schools, but if it did, the schools and Board would have to think about fundraising. The Trustees and Ms. Martin discussed the new mayor and how his administration might affect the school's budget.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Chaluisan adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.