

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:

Monday, February 11, 2013 at 5 p.m.

ATTENDANCE**Board of Trustees**

Present: Edna Vega, Nancy Grossman, Ron Chaluisan, David Faber

Not Present: Angel Rodriguez (Chair), Yvette Armstrong

School Staff: Stacey King (Principal of AMSII), Richard Gonzalez (Principal, of HUM II), Pamela Fairclough (COO of HUM II)

NVPS Staff: Lori Mei, Stacy Martin, Stephany Martinez

WELCOME

Mr. Chaluisan welcomed everyone to the meeting at 5:10 p.m.

Mr. Chaluisan reviewed the agenda

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

The acceptance of the January minutes was postponed until the next Board Meeting since not enough Board Members were present when the minutes were discussed.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

February Focus: First Trimester Data

New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math & Science II

Ms. King updated the Trustees on first trimester results. Based on the data, she and her staff identified students who are in need of additional support and set in place mandatory after-school core content tutoring. The instructional team met with the students and sent letters of commitment home for parents to sign. For

the February break students are required to complete a mandatory math packet for Algebra or Geometry as part of their course grade.

Ms. King discussed eight students who are excelling in math and science and are taking Living Environment with the Assistant Principal of AMS II, who has previous experience as a science teacher. Currently, there is one student from HUM II taking the Living Environment course at AMS II.

Ms. King told the Trustees that she believed there may be a discrepancy in the number of special education students identified in the data prepared by the New Visions Data Team which would have an impact on the results presented. She indicated that her internal figures were different than those presented in the report. Lori Mei indicated that she would investigate Ms. King's concerns and, if there were material changes to the data, an update will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Ms. King also updated the Trustees on professional development and strategies in place to guide new teachers in the classroom. She described how teachers are videotaping themselves and taking turns sharing their lessons at the weekly professional development meeting, where they discuss and evaluate teaching strategies that support challenge-based learning. Ms. Grossman suggested that Ms. King also share video examples of what challenge-based learning looks like in a classroom and suggested requesting materials from New York University and Teachers College.

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II

Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on first trimester data, focusing on course pass rates and credit accumulation. Based on his review of the data, Mr. Gonzalez noted that HUM II is on track with student performance for a school that has only been open for one trimester. He and his team paid particular attention to Special Education students because of the high number of students with special needs enrolled in HUM II and that support was reflected in the strong outcomes for SPED students. Mr. Gonzalez indicated that he will continue to develop his SPED department through professional development to support students with disabilities.

Mr. Gonzalez also described the professional development that has been underway at HUM II during the first trimester. He noted that teachers focus on a specific challenge-based strategy weekly that the administration first models in a lesson for teachers. Teachers then practice the strategy during the week and visit each other's classrooms and discuss what they observed during their weekly instructional meetings. Currently, teachers are focused on identifying what a workshop model looks like in a lesson and will implement specific strategies to support the workshop model in the coming week.

In addition, Mr. Gonzalez noted that staff and students have established a positive culture for learning and they continue to work on school culture. As an example of culture-building, he described a monthly celebration called

“Amnesty Day” where students are allowed to get back on track by retaking a quiz or turning in an overdue assignment without consequences.

SCHOOL REPORTS

Attendance and Discharges

Ms. Mei reported on the monthly attendance and discharges noting that both schools are above the 90% attendance rate benchmark set for New Visions Charter High Schools. Ms. Mei drew the Trustees’ attention to a new metric on the attendance report, “the number of students with Excessive Absences,” which is designed to assist schools in focusing on students who have been absent 10% of the school year. If students were to be absent 10% of the time for the entire school year, they would be absent for a total of 18 school days which is almost one month of instruction. The new metric is intended to assist schools in identifying students that are at-risk for excessive absences and in implementing individualized interventions to prevent further absences.

Ms. Mei noted that the number of discharges increased at both schools due to follow-up work being done by Kathy Rodriguez, Program Associate at NVCHS Unit in collaboration with school staff. Attendance follow-up procedures include identifying long-term absent students, conducting the appropriate outreach to discover if these students are enrolled in other schools, documenting the findings and ultimately discharging these students so that they do not continue to appear on the school registers.

The Trustees, Principals and Ms. Mei engaged in conversation about the supports in place for helping the schools maintain an accurate roster throughout the year.

School Pathways from Lower House to Upper House

Mr. Chaluisan shared a chart with the Trustees that described various pathways students could take if they failed a core content class or a Regents Exam without having to retake an entire core class or complete a credit recovery course. The Trustees and Mr. Chaluisan engaged in a conversation about the various pathways to successfully transition students from the Lower House to the Upper House.

School Application Updates

Mr. Chaluisan updated the Trustees on the number of student applications received to date for AMS II and HUM II for next year. Both schools have received over 900 applications... Mr. Chaluisan also noted that many of the applications are coming from the districts where the schools are located which would give the applicants district preference in the lottery.

BOARD BUSINESS

School Insurance

Ms. Martin, Chief Operating Officer for New Visions briefed the Trustees on an insurance matter related to payments for New York Disability insurance that had recently been identified. Ms. Martin assured the Trustees that all payments have been made retroactively and that there was no lack in coverage.

UFT Negotiations

Mr. Chaluian updated the Trustees on the status of ongoing conversations between the UFT, representatives of the Board of Trustees for AMS and HUM and New Visions, as the charter management organization for the charter schools. Mr. Chaluian offered to meet with the Trustees to go through the emerging UFT contract and suggested that they might want to designate one of their members as a liaison in this matter. The Trustees suggested that Board Member Yvette Armstrong might serve as the AMS II and HUM II liaison. Mr. Chaluian said he will follow up with the Board and with Ms. Armstrong at the March Board Meeting.

Board Expansion

Mr. Chaluian updated the Trustees regarding the expansion of the Board and discussed a potential candidate brought forth by Mr. Rodriguez. Mr. Chaluian will reach out to Board Members in the coming month to speak with interested candidates for the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Chaluian adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.