



NEW VISIONS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEE 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, January 14, 2013

Present

Board Members: Angel Rodriguez (Chair), Yvette Armstrong, Ronald Chaluisan, David Faber, Edna Vega
New Visions: Stacy Martin, Lori Mei, Stephany Martinez
AMS II: Stacey King
HUM II: Richard Gonzalez, Pam Fairclough

WELCOME

Mr. Rodriguez welcomed everyone to the meeting at 5:23 p.m.

Mr. Rodriguez reviewed the agenda.

Acceptance of Minutes

Mr. Chaluisan put forth the motion to accept the minutes from December 10, 2012 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Faber seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

SCHOOL REPORTS

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II

Mr. Gonzalez discussed instruction and interventions in place at HUM II for Trimester 2. He is working with the Instructional Specialist and teachers to develop challenged based learning in the classrooms.

Professional development focuses on two strategies this trimester: workshop model in the classroom and mini-lessons that focus on skill building.

Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on attendance at HUM II noting that their goal is to maintain a 90% attendance rate; they are currently at 92%. For Trimester 1 attendance was lower due to two students whose families have not yet provided proof of transfer after moving out of state. The school is actively following up on this matter. A Trustee requested that a footnote be made in the schools attendance reports of students who are no longer attending the school but continue to be included in the attendance rate.

Ms. Mei, Director of Operations at NVPS, explained that her team is working with the schools to ensure all transfer documentation is collected in a timely manner ensuring accurate student rosters for the schools and the state. A new hire at NVPS, Ms. Kathy Rodriguez, will focus on working with the schools regularly regarding all student services.

Finance

Pamela Fairclough, Chief Operating Officer for HUM II, updated the Trustees on the schools budget noting that HUM II began with a balanced budget that included funds from the Charter Schools Start-up Grant (CSP). With the help of Ms. Stacy Martin, Chief Operating Officer for NVPS, Ms. Fairclough has been able to establish routine costs for programming and staffing at HUM II and more clearly assess projected costs.

New Visions Charter High School for the Advanced Math and Science II

Ms. King updated the Trustees on the instructional goals for Trimester 2 at AMS II. Professional Development focuses on what a challenged based learning classroom looks like and the strategies that help teachers create student centered activities. Ms. King is using data from report cards and final exams to inform instruction and interventions for students; as a result AMS II has formed three small literacy groups to support students in their learning. Ms. King is taking steps to start Saturday Academy in order to offer multiple enrichment opportunities for students. Ms. Vega suggested that she reach out to the surrounding colleges in the area like Hostos Community College and Lehman College for support with tutoring and Saturday classes. Ms. Vega will reach out to her professional contacts at both schools and find out about additional instructional support.

Ms. King also reported to the Board that AMS II is now a NY Cares site and is seeking to become a site for Big Brother Big Sister. Mr. Chaluisan noted that he is working with CUNY College Now as a pathway for preparing Upper House students for college classroom experiences. Ms. King also highlighted to the Trustees several college readiness dinners that students and parents attended to begin conversations around financial aid and applications to colleges and universities.

Finance

Ms. Martin updated the Trustees on AMS II budget noting Ms. King has increased her revenue through enrollments. Ms. Martin noted that AMS II also received their CSP grant.

BOARD BUSINESS

UFT Updates

The next UFT-NVCHS Board of Trustees contract negotiation meeting is scheduled for Wednesday January 16, 2013. Teachers, UFT representatives, and NVCHS Board Members hope to finalize the broad parameters of the agreement in order to have lawyers construct the legal contract which will be voted upon. A number of outstanding issues remain.

Mr. Chaluisan committed to keep the Board Members informed of the status of the negotiations.

Education Service Agreement (ESA)

Ms. Mei, Director of Operations for NVPS, presented the Trustees with the annual Charter Management Organization (CMO) survey from the schools as per the ESA. The CMO used the results of the survey to improve the delivery of services to the schools as necessary. Ms. Mei and the Trustees discussed the major findings for each of the categories the schools were asked to rate and the changes that have been implemented or proposed based on these findings.

Board Expansion

Mr. Chaluisan presented an update to the Trustees regarding plans to increase membership by February. Mr. Chaluisan requested that the Trustees submit names at the February Board Meeting to begin a discussion and decision process to fill up to six available slots. Mr. Chaluisan will be available to speak with candidates presented by Board Members as names are submitted.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.