

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:
Tuesday, March 12, 2013 at 5 p.m.*

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

Present: Yvette Armstrong, Ron Chaluisan (Secretary), David Faber,
Nancy Grossman, Angel Rodriguez (Chair)

Not Present: Edna Vega

New Visions Staff: Stacy Martin, Stephany Martinez, Lori Mei

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

WELCOME

Mr. Rodriguez opened the meeting at 5:01 p.m. by reviewing the agenda.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the minutes from February 11, 2013 meeting.

Mr. Faber seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

MONTHLY SCHOOL DATA REPORTS

Ms. Mei, Director of Operations, summarized the monthly attendance and discharge reports for both AMS II and HUM II. Average daily attendance continues to be above the 90% attendance benchmark in both schools. Ms. Mei also gave an update on the applications received to date for both schools noting that the date of the lottery is April 18, 2013 at Hostos Community College.

Mr. Chaluisan informed the Trustees that the monthly financial reports for all schools will now be given on a quarterly basis due to minor changes in data from month-to-month for both schools.

PRINCIPALS' SELF-REFLECTIONS

Mr. Chaluisan told the Trustees that, as part of the Principals' mid-year evaluations, he had asked them to prepare a self-reflection on their work to date in relation to key areas in which they will be evaluated at the end of the year. These areas are Leading Instruction, Managing Operations and Managing Community Engagement. The Principals presented a summary of their self-reflections to the Trustees.

New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II

Ms. King's self-reflection centered around four major points: professional development, community engagement, school culture and college and career readiness. She described the major initiatives that she had put in place in each of these areas. Under professional development Ms. King described how she had embedded additional reading support for all her teachers through the Wilson reading program and is working to make classrooms centered on writing including math and science. Ms. King also described her work with teachers to move classrooms from teacher centered to student centered through the workshop model framework.

In the area of school culture, Principal King informed the Trustees that the attendance rate is at 93%, an indication of a loving and caring environment for students where they feel supported by all staff. Ms. King will continue to hire staff members who can support the goals and culture of the school.

When describing community engagement, Ms. King spoke about the importance of school and community collaboration as a crucial part of challenge-based learning. One such collaboration was when Assemblyman Stevenson and Ms. King arranged for his swearing in ceremony to take place at AMS II and a large number of community members and students were in attendance. For the upcoming anchor projects centered on "building a better campus," Ms. King has asked Assemblyman Stevenson to consult with her students via Skype on the possibilities for building a safer community outside of AMS II. Students will also gather community support by initiating a peace march and speaking with key members of the community.

Ms. King provided several examples to highlight the work that she and her team are doing around college and career readiness. One such initiative she described is the "life skills" workshops given by the School Counselors at AMS II. Principal King will also integrate these workshops into Saturday Academy and her School Counselors will provide advisories around character and student development.

Ms. King answered several questions for the Trustees around the four major points she presented.

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II

Principal Gonzalez indicated that he was most proud of the culture he and his team have created for students that supports a rigorous learning environment, student growth, individuality and a strong sense of community at HUM II. Mr. Gonzalez has established strong routines and procedures that are part of a “portrait for a HUM II scholar” that start with Summer Bridge. He has also encouraged teachers to focus on the positive behavior that students’ exhibit rather than on the negative and, as a result, students are encouraging each other to behave in the “HUM II way.”

Principal Gonzalez described how he leads the weekly PD sessions by modeling best practices for creating challenge-based learning in a classroom. This has led to open professional dialogue where teachers and leadership can receive feedback for information and for personal growth. Mr. Gonzalez noted that he and his Assistant Principal will co-teach with all teachers to offer better support and examples of the workshop model and mini-lessons in a classroom. He has also developed a Google document where teachers can access feedback immediately following classroom observations so they can reflect on what they have learned in the weekly PD sessions.

Mr. Gonzalez has also established strong relationships with parents and has invited them to sit in their student’s classroom to observe. Several parents have visited their student’s classroom and have come to speak with Mr. Gonzalez. He has made working with parents to improve student performance a priority and keeps an open door policy. On the community level, Mr. Gonzalez is working with a professor from Bronx Community College to advocate for his students and connect them to college resources.

Principal Gonzalez closed his summary by describing the strong systems in place to manage the operations of the school. With the help of his COO, Mr. Gonzalez has set in place strong procedures and routines for both his students and staff.

He then answered several questions for the Trustees around the major points he presented.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Chaluisan made a motion to adjourn the public session of the Board meeting and enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

BOARD BUSINESS

The Board reopened the public portion of the meeting.

NYSED Visit to Schools

Mr. Chaluisan provided details regarding the New York State Education Department's visit to HUM II on Thursday, March 14 and to AMS II on Friday, March 15, 2013. The NYSED representatives asked to speak with available Board Members during their visits; Nancy Grossman and David Faber were available via phone on Friday. Ms. Martinez sent conference call information to the Board Members before the scheduled call.

A Board Member asked if there would be a formal report available and Mr. Chaluisan replied that there would be and it will be available to the public via the NYSED website.

Board Expansion

Mr. Chaluisan asked the Trustees if one or two members would be available to speak with a potential Board Member before the next Board Meeting in April. Ms. Armstrong is available and will email dates and times to Ms. Martinez who will assist in arranging a meeting date for Ms. Armstrong and the potential Board Member.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:02 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Faber and passed unanimously.