

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, May 13, 2013 at 5 p.m.*

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members

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

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), Sharon
John (COO AMS II)

Public: Edmund Gaffney, Rosy Taveras, Danita Thompson

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Chaluisan made a motion to begin the Board meeting in Executive Session.

WELCOME

During executive session the Board of Trustees voted to select Edmund Gaffney as the final candidate to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on December, 31, 2014, pending approval by SED. The resolution approving Edmund Gaffney will be formally adopted upon SED's approval.

Mr. Rodriguez re-opened the public portion of the meeting at 5:10 p.m. by reviewing the agenda and welcoming the public to the meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING'S MINUTES

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the minutes from April 8, 2013 meeting. Ms. Armstrong seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

PRINCIPALS' REPORT

New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II

Ms. King began by summarizing the AMS II school reports on student attendance and discharges, staff hiring, and school finances. Ms. King then introduced Sharon John to the Board as the newly hired Chief Operating Officer for AMS II. Ms. King answered several questions from the Trustees regarding the AMS II school reports.

Ms. King updated the Trustees on the academic progress of students from Trimester 1 to Trimester 2 noting a steady increase in pass rates for core content courses which overall is up to 70 percent. For the Special Education (SPED) and English Language Learners (ELL) the pass rate for core courses went up from 28 percent to 59 percent. Ms. King attributes the progress to the additional reading lab that was implemented in Trimester 2 for students failing one or more core content course. Ms. King explained that the additional reading lab takes place during the elective period to avoid pulling students out of their core courses. If the students improve and begin to do well they can return to an elective course. Ms. King noted that the students in the reading lab are feeling more confident and successful in their classrooms, and contributing more to discussions with peers and teachers.

In addition, students receive targeted parent/student interventions when progress reports are sent home where parents are invited to meet with their student's teachers to discuss academic progress and specialized intervention plans. Struggling students also receive mandatory assignments during each school break that focus on math, writing, reading and science. Parents are asked to sign that they received mandatory assignments and follow up with their child to ensure they complete assignments during school breaks.

Ms. King summarized for the Trustees on-going plans for professional development during the summer and invited the Board to attend the AMS theatre performance of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II

Mr. Gonzalez summarized for the Trustees the attendance and discharge reports noting a steady attendance rate of 90 percent due to continued difficulties with reaching two long-term absent student's parents for updates on the student's attendance. There were two student discharges since the May Board meeting and Mr. Gonzalez noted one of the students is now being homeschooled. Mr. Rodriguez requested that Mr. Gonzalez inquire with the student's parents for their reason to home school their child.

Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on the academic progress for Trimester 2 noting that report cards were not as strong as he would have expected and explained that one reason for the drop in grades could be due to an increase in the rigor of content in the classrooms and with homework. Mr. Gonzalez noted that all students continue to be on track to receive their credits for promotion to the 10th grade. Ms. Vega suggested that Mr. Gonzalez create a homework policy that every teacher follows to ensure that homework assignments are purposeful and inform student learning and comprehension.

Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on the school's visit to the Lincoln Center Institute noting that the students received tours of several iconic landmarks including the Revson Fountain, the newly transformed Alice Tully Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera House.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded by discussing the Hockman professional development that will be offered to teachers this summer. The Hockman program, provides teachers with flexible, evidenced based strategies for written language instruction and can be implemented in every content area. Pamela Fairclough, Chief Operating Officer for HUM II, is working with a representative from the Hockman program to coordinate implementation and training of teachers.

BOARD BUSINESS

Enrollment

Ms. Lori Mei, Director of Operations for Charter, updated the Trustees on the number of students offered seats who registered for AMS II and HUM II. Ms. Mei noted that both schools will meet their enrollment of 125 students for the 9th grade and will fill their available seats in the 10th grade since both schools have deep waitlists. The schools are now accepting students from the waitlist and each family has seven days to make a decision and enroll, otherwise the next student on the waitlist receives an offer.

2013-2014 School Calendars

Mr. Chalusian presented the proposed 2013-2014 School Calendars for both AMS II and HUM II to the Trustees. Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the 2013-2014 School Calendars. Mr. Faber seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Sanchez made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss a student disciplinary action. Ms. Grossman seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rodriguez re-opened the public portion of the meeting by adjourned the meeting at 6:40p.m.