

New City School, Inc.
Board Meeting December 8, 2015
New City School

Present: Linda Crawford, Vince Esades, Marcy Myers, Melissa Johnson, Barbara Glaser

Absent: Gary Crawford

Also Present: Jitendrapal Kundan, Director, New City School and ex-officio member of Board; Todd Bartholomay, Principal, New City School, Damon Fraser, NEO, Jayne Fulkerson, prospective board member, Wendy Swanson Choi, NEO (present at beginning of meeting to give an unscheduled update from our authorizer), Jackie Paradis (through budget part of agenda)

The meeting convened at 5:00 p.m.

Agenda

The Agenda of this meeting: Budget updates, State of School – Board Report, State of School – Director’s Report, Gifts/Donations/Fundraising, Partnerships and Committees. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Marcy Myers, seconded by Vince Esades and approved unanimously.

Authorizer renewal contracts

Wendy Swanson Choi spoke regarding an email that NEO, our authorizer, had received from the MDE (MN Dept of Education) regarding its 2016 Renewal Contracts. MDE identified deficiencies upon its compliance review of NEO’s renewal contracts and they must be amended/revised and resubmitted. NEO must personalize and clarify its contracts’ standard language around the process and implementation of performance frameworks, with the primary purpose of the school being to improve all pupils learning and achievement.

NEO will submit its revisions to NCS’ Board for review in January.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, Oct 13, 2015, was made by Barbara Glaser, seconded by Vince Esades and unanimously approved.

Budget Updates

NCS received more revenue than we anticipated due to increased enrollment, and we are on track in revenue collection. Expenditures are the same as last year and as there is no change in the budget, there is no need for Board approval at this time.

Check register 10/13/15–12/8/15

Board reviewed checks written and asked for clarification of some vendors/payees and amounts. A motion to approve the check register was made by Melissa Johnson, seconded by Vince Esades and unanimously approved.

Journal entries 10/13/15 – 12/8/15

Total of entries: \$1,363.80

Vince Esades moved approval of the journal entries; Melissa Johnson seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by the board. Our cash flow to the end of January is good, no need to borrow.

Introduction of Jayne Fulkerson, Prospective Board Member

Jayne is on the faculty of the University of Minnesota School of Nursing. She runs a PhD program emphasizing nutrition to prevent chronic disease among children (mostly 8 – 12 year olds) and families. Introductions were made all around. Her application is due by December 10th, 4:00 p.m.

Board training

The anticipated time commitment of a board member is 30 hours per year: 3 hour quarterly meetings which include board development, Worlds Best Workforce, discussions of policies such as our nepotism/conflict policy, enrollment, special projects, and elections. Generally, we are getting our work done in this timeframe. The facilities work has required more time spent by ABC subcommittee members.

Diversity

The Board reviewed NCS' mission as it relates to recruiting and keeping a diverse mix of students. We discussed the recent suit brought against the State Department of Education charging segregation in the schools. We noted that keeping NCS as diverse as we want it to be is often challenging and although we make great efforts to attract students of color and students in poverty to our school, we are sometimes unsuccessful. NCS has an information booth at Minneapolis public school fairs held on the northside, southside, northeast Minneapolis, and in Native American centers. Our materials are available in Somali, Spanish and English. At NCS' family night we provide food and childcare. We also need to be sure that our literature is meaningful to all prospective parents when we use terms such as "Restorative Model of Justice", and "Responsive Classroom." One thing further we can do is make our literature more accessible, more easily and quickly understood with better graphics, bulleted text, etc.

Currently NCS students are 50% European American, and 50% non-European American. 44% of students are eligible for free/reduced lunch and Title I services. We do not have the problem with over-identification of EBD boys.

State of School – Director's Report

Mr. Jit has proposed to Origins that he will work there 75% for the next 6-9 months and be on NCS campus twice a week. Hiring is in process for a new "Dean of Students" to support students and teachers in Mr. Jit's absence. A likely candidate will be interviewed at the end of the week and the position could be filled by early next week. Start date would be January 4, 2015. Mr. Jit remains the Director, continuing to set the tone for the school and represent our interests to MDE and our authorizer.

School expansion

Regarding New City's expansion, we need flexibility to work with agents other than our current realtors. Following a discussion of facility opportunities, Melissa Johnson moved to give ABC permission to exercise the right to terminate our contract with Cushman Wakefield and pursue new brokers. Marcy Myers seconded the motion, and the board approved the motion unanimously.

Improvements in math instruction

Mr. Todd gave an update of NCS' plans for continuous improvement in math, and area where we have shown a decline in recent years:

- As a school we have not paid good attention to math instruction--over the last four years 3 of 4 math teachers have left, creating a lack of continuity.
- The "Everyday Math" Curriculum is not serving our needs; the curriculum doesn't work well with larger classes.
- The overall decline in students' math achievement is being addressed this year using Achievement Net, a strong tool to help us clarify the math standards we're teaching to, help us form a teaching plan, and provide data assessment. Students' math learning will be tracked 4 times this year.

Achievement Net is being used by (700) schools, whose data grades 2 - 8 we can access. Achievement Net has also sent a consultant to help us interpret data, provide advice and help us with computerized testing. We have an opportunity to examine our assessment system and examine the student information input system. We believe that this new systems will empower students and families to be more involved with their math learning.

Committees

The salary review subcommittee will review salaries after the winter break.

Gifts/Donations

New City School received a \$20.20 gift from Wells Fargo

Barbara Glaser made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marcy Myers seconded the motion, unanimously passed by the board. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.