



New Heights Board of Trustees
April 27th, 2021
Starting Time: 5:00pm
Location: 1690 Main Street
Brockton, MA 02301
Join Zoom Meeting

ZOOM Meeting:

Description:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6822448291>

- I. Call to Order at
- II. Approved Board Members List
 - A. Mike Sullivan
 - B. Ollie Spears
 - C. Rick Schwartz
 - D. Crystal Asiwe
 - E. Graham Bengen
 - F. Judge Phillips
 - G. Vinnie Marturano
 - H. Emmanuel Daphnis
 - I. Steve Bernard
 - J. Nicholas Christ
 - K. Kimberly Zouzoua
- III. Roll Call
 - A. Board Members Present
 1. Vinnie Marturano (V)
 2. Ollie Spears (V)
 3. Graham Bengen (V)
 4. Crystal Asiwe (V)
 5. Emmanuel Daphnis (V)
 6. Rick Schwartz (V)
 7. Mike Sullivan (V)
 8. Steve Bernard (V @ 5:42)
 - B. Members Absent
 1. Nick Christ
 2. Judge Phillips
 3. Kimberly Zou
- IV. Reading and Approval of Minutes from Board Meeting from 4/13/2021
 - A. Moved by Graham Bengen
 1. Rick would like J and K be removed
 2. Mike asked the scribe if we can remove the information from J and K - just correct the formatting of the minutes



3. Board members are referred to by their first name and others are referred to as their last names- Rick would like consistency
4. Omari clarified which name should be used- first
5. Motion to approve edited minute made by Graham
 - a) Seconded by Crystal
 - b) Vinnie (Aye)
 - c) Ollie (Aye)
 - d) Emmanuel (Aye)
 - e) Rick (Aye)
 - f) Mike (Aye)
 - g) Unanimously passed

V. Reports

A. Chairperson's Report (Mike Sullivan)

1. N/A

B. Executive Director's Report (Omari Walker)

1. Reopening

a) Students In

- (1) Out of 740 students, about 443 have agreed to return to in person learning. This amounts to about 60% of our students. This number far exceeds our original estimate of approximately 35-40% of students returning. Originally, we were concerned that this would pose a serious challenge due to space, however after much careful planning and creative thinking, we were able to invite almost all of our students back. As of April 26th, we have successfully brought back approximately 270 middle school students with no incidents of COVID-19 presenting in the school. This does not mean that there have not been struggles with reopening, but we have worked tirelessly to address issues as they arise. Mask breaks were initially an area of concern for staff, so we met with a representative of each middle school grade and have adjusted the protocol based on their feedback. We reduced the number of mask breaks students are being given in order to ensure that a suitable adult presence is at each mask break and plan to have administrators in the hall during this transition. As you know, we adjusted our daily



schedule to accommodate an early dismissal plan that accommodated Brockton's bus driver shortage.

- b) Still serving many high school student through remote
- c) Crystal: how does the commissioner's decisions for full in person learning for high school by May 17th. How will this impact us?
 - (1) Seniors will be done with school May 21st. Already received a waiver for them to remain in remote learning.
 - (2) have discussed bringing in more juniors once seniors are done for the year
- d) Schedule Changes
 - (1) Swift turnaround and we opened without a hitch due to teamwork
 - (2) Transportation is not working anywhere
 - (3) Superintendent Thomas explained that this week 18 bus drivers called out
 - (4) Doing everything in their power to rectify situation
 - (5)

2. Enrollment

a)

6 th Grade	118
7 th Grade	121
8 th Grade	121
9 th Grade	95
10 th Grade	92
11 th Grade	100
12 th Grade	89

b) **Current Student Enrollment by City:**

Brockton	592
Randolph	74
Taunton	42

OOD	28
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- c) The 28 OOD students- how is their per pupil allotted?
 - (1) depends on their sending district
 - (2) They start in one of our sending districts and once they are in the school remain with us even if they change towns, as long as they remain in Mass.
- 3. FY21 Graduation and Senior Highlights (Maria Fernandes)
 - a) Brief presentation on our high school graduation and seniors
 - b) Seniors have earned 5458 credits in their time here and over 60% of our sr class has a GPA of 3.0 or higher (hsgpa)
 - c) 51% on track to earn AA
 - d) Staff shared stories of New Heights successes
 - (1) Emily millien as able to access MCC due to multiple measures, going to stonehill next year
 - (2) Louis Baez- struggled at first, took classes at the school on his own to ensure he could get his AA
 - (3) Miguel Fernandes-failed accuplacer multiple times, never gave up and asked for/ received supports from staff until he did pass and took extra classes to ensure he would earn his AA
 - (4) Sauvanie- amazing student, admitted into so many colleges of her choice
 - e) Graduation on June 3rd and starts at 6pm
 - f) These students are able to blossom due to your staff's attention. Thank you to the staff for this and for all that they do
 - g) Crystal proud of students and staff- take great pride in where these students come from and where they are going
- 4. motion to accept director's report by Graham
 - a) Seconded by Vinnie
 - (1) Rick (Aye)
 - (2) Ollie (Aye)
 - (3) Emmanuel (Aye)
 - (4) Mike (Aye)
 - (5) Crystal (Aye)
 - b) motion passed unanimously
- C. New Business
 - 1. Central Office Rental (Pearl St. Brockton)
- VI. Central Office
 - A. Building split into 6/7/8 th grade house, 9/10 grade house, 11/12/APlus house.



1. 2nd floor will include 6th and 7th grade classrooms as well as Student Services, Dean of Students, 6/7/8 Adjustment Counselor
 2. 1st floor front of building 8th/9th/10th grade classrooms, Co-Principals, guidance counselors, operations, Front office, Central Office Work room, IT, Transition Coordinator, APlus Coordinator, R&R, Dean of Students, Outreach, Teachers room, Nurses rooms, Lead Adjustment Counselor
 3. 1st floor back of building - Kitchen, Cafeteria, Academic Deans, RTI Coordinator, Interventionists, 10th grade classrooms, ESL classroom, Early College wing, Dean of Students, Early College Admin, guidance counselor, Adjustment Counselor, Gym
- B. Staff are placed appropriately to serve students they serve.
- C. Office space assessed for 9 admin to move out of the building and into a new space. \$5,349/ month for expenses plus electric and gas.
- D. Asking for permission to negotiate.
- E. Do we need to do bids for this kind of purchase?
1. May have this obligation to get bids- will have to find out
 2. Would like to ask for rental for the length of the charter
 3. Who is moving?
 - a) Executive Director
 - b) Interim Asst. ED
 - c) Director of Curriculum
 - d) Director of Finance
 - e) Director of Spec Ed
 - f) Marketing Coordinator
 - g) Director of Development
 - h) Director of IT
 4. How will this impact the daily affairs of the school if key admin are offsite?
 - a) Finally in a place where we can do jobs more related to our titles and less wearing of multiple hats
 - b) Vinnie concerned about losing some of the closeness of things.
 - c) Space continues to be at tremendous challenges- will have to work even harder to ensure ELT presence is still felt. Do not want to send message that there is a difference between school and central office
 - d) keep importance of your own presence in the school in mind
 - e) motion to authorize Omari and others to negotiate a lease of up to five years and to use David Frenette as counsel on behalf of NHCSB, contingent on the process meeting whatever state requirements are in place for charter schools as relates to securing and entering a lease for a space.

- (1) Graham moves to accept
- (2) Crystal seconds
- (3) Rick (Aye)
- (4) Vinnie (Aye)
- (5) Steve (Aye)
- (6) mike (Aye)
- (7) Emmanuel (Aye)
- (8) Motion passed unanimously

VII. Reports of Special Committees

A. Academic Excellence Committee (Pastor Manny)

1. Met right before break
2. Would like to present student data at the next board meeting the academic dashboard
 - a) Will ensure that this happens
3. have gone through some significant challenges and seen some progress with in person learning
4. How will we be supporting the significantly high numbers of failing students?
 - a) Emmanuel- not as drastic as we originally thought
 - b) Rick reminds us that the Dashboard already exists and can be accessed
5. Dr. Robinson-0 there is an Academic Excellence Board Drive that all board members have access to- will re-send out the link
6. Do we know how the changing president at MCC will impact us?
 - a) Maria: have not yet reached out to the president planning on setting a meeting
7. Motion to Accept AEC report Crystal
8. Seconded by Emmanuel
 - a) Vinnie (Aye)
 - b) Steve (Aye)
 - c) Rick (aye)
 - d) Mike (Aye)
 - e) Motion Passed Unanimously

B. Finance Committee (Rick)

1. YTD Finances
 - a) Meeting all figures as projected
 - b) FY21 actuals should be 75% of budget at this point in the year
 - c) At the end of the year we want our projected and actuals to equalize
 - d) Staff spending is right on so far
 - e) Administrative costs are a little over because we had some more up front with less coming down the line



- f) Currently at 65.82% of our budget but are confident how this will go over time
- g) all debt will be paid off by June 30th
- h) Motion to accept finance report
 - (1) Vinnie Motioned
 - (2) Crystal Seconded
 - (3) Vinnie (Aye)
 - (4) Steve (Aye)
 - (5) Rick (aye)
 - (6) Mike (Aye)
 - (7) Passed unanimously

VIII. Governance Committee (Vinnie)

- 1. looking at new information from MCPSA for future information on board improvement
 - a) Motion To accept by Rick
 - b) Seconded by Emmanuel
 - c) Vinnie (Aye)
 - d) Steve (Aye)
 - e) Crystal (aye)
 - f) Mike (Aye)

IX. Special Orders

- A. N/A

X. Good of the Order

- A. Announcements

XI. Motion to adjourn by Vinnie

XII. Seconded by Emmanuel Seconded

- A. Steve (Aye)
- B. Crystal (aye)
- C. Mike (Aye)
- D. Rick (Aye)

Meeting adjourned at