

The New American Academy
Charter School
5800 Tilden Ave.
Brooklyn, NY 11203
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www.tnaacs.org



Headmaster
Lisa Parquette Silva
Master Teachers
Sheila Hopkins-Osnes
Olawa Gibson

Director of Operations
Matthew Harrington

A New Vision for Education

TNAACS Board Meeting
Tuesday November 29, 2016
9301 Avenue B Brooklyn, NY 11236

Minutes

Attendees:

Shimon Waronker – Founder, NAI
Lisa Parquette-Silva – Headmaster, TNAACS
Matthew Harrington – Director of Operations, TNAACS

Board Members:

Varleton “Mac” McDonald – Chairman
Kevin Monrose – Treasurer
Elizabeth DeAngelis – Secretary
Lorraine Scorsone – Board Member
John Jangl – Board Member

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM.

November Financial Report Review:

1. Projected net income increased and student enrollment is on target.

Decision Items:

Lisa began by explaining how the school’s data from test scores has been analyzed and its implications for instruction and interventions to help students make gains in ELA and Math scores. She then discussed the following interventions:

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1. Interventions for Math/ELA Instruction that are in place include:

- a. iReady during “breakfast club”
- b. Teacher reassigned to intervention for grades 2-3-4. Responsible for LLI, Math Push-in and iReady
- c. After-school Intervention staffed by Master Teachers
- d. iReady site license
- e. School Aides/Master Teachers doing daily intervention

2. Any additional interventions that are needed for the school?

Shimon invited the board to share their feelings on the intervention plans.

One concern was whether children must attend after school and the answer was that it was an extra opportunity and not mandatory.

Lorraine stated that the plan was comprehensive and that the school has considered long term vs. short term goals.

Mac asked questions about the frequency of the interventions and the following information was provided:

LLI is done daily and 2 teachers are doing this program.

One teaching assistant does 3 LLI groups a week. This has freed up Olawa to do math intervention.

An interventionist is doing LLI 5 days a week for several groups in Grade 4.

The math interventionist pushes into the most needy math group daily.

The Master Teachers push into classrooms everyday.

NYSED Visit:

a. Susan Megna from NYSED visited which was a follow-up visit from the formal review last year

b. Test scores were discussed during the visit as this was the first year of testing data

Educational success – Test scores were reviewed. This goal was not met.

Educational soundness -

Organizational Soundness – Met benchmarks in 3 of 4 areas

Met 8 and approached 1, below in test data.

b. NAI relationship to charter

Susan asked for clarification of the role of NAI and how the board evaluates the work /support Shimon and NAI gives the school.

Susan wants to make sure that the support organization is doing its job to support students. Susan was impressed that TNAACS does not remove children because of academic failure. TNAACS accepts backfill

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students and that we maintain over 100% of the targeted enrollment. An acceptable goal for targeted enrollment is greater than 85%. TNAACS believes that they are there to serve the needs of the community school district and will continue to enroll and fill grades based on demand from the neighborhood

There was a lengthy discussion about data, interventions and personnel support for teachers and students as follows:

The school is using iReady to track levels and give profile levels to these students. Students in Level 1 are Profile 1 in iReady. The goal is to move students out of Profiles 1 and 2

Lisa gained information about how iReady can be a blended model based on the needs of each child. With this program we can design lessons for the children by analyzing the work these students are doing on iReady.

There is an intervention specialist now working with teachers to differentiate instruction, pull small groups, and LLI – Leveled Literacy Intervention with students at risk.

Also we are identifying students who need Wilson.

After-school intervention is being led by Master Teachers. Two Master Teachers will be doing targeted intervention for students in need.

We will be doing Saturday Academy in January, after the mock exam, to help the students understand test strategies.

Teachers are differentiating in the classroom and pull out services to address the gaps of the students.

Mac suggested that all this information be common knowledge among all the teachers in the school. He asked about frequency of assessment. Lisa spoke about LLI weekly running records and said that after a certain number of lessons, students can be retested to see if there is any improvement. If there has not been improvement, students will be reassigned lessons.

The two original Master Teachers are in testing grades and are co-teaching with newer teachers, doing targeted intervention, and are being supported by an intervention specialist.

Lisa thanked PS 770 for sharing their expertise. She stated that students could use the iReady at home on a computer or iPad. Students seem to like using the program because it is on a device.

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Mac noted that the program is comprehensive and that the leadership is not challenged by what is needed.

Shimon asked the question about kids who are being pulled out and whether or not they are missing out on being in the classroom. He is curious to find out the checks that the teams are doing to make sure kids are in the classroom enough. Lisa responded that she has been strict about scheduling the interventionist and is having push in vs. pull out when possible.

The board unanimously approved all the interventions put in place so far for the TNAACS.

i. What is board's supervisory role over NAI

Shimon asked the board to review a document from the state and provide feedback by Friday, December 2nd. It is an evaluative tool from the state that can be used by the board to show oversight of NAI by the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.