

The New American Academy
Charter School
9301 Avenue B
Brooklyn, NY 11236
Phone: 718-385-1709



A New Vision for Education

Fax: 718-386-1856
www.tnaacs.org

Headmaster
Lisa Parquette Silva
Master Teachers
Erin Farley
Olawa Gibson
Sheila Hopkins-Osnes
Jennifer Trani
Director of Operations
Matthew Harrington

**TNAACS Board Meeting
Monday September 18, 2017
9301 Avenue B Brooklyn, NY 11236**

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 6:04. In attendance were:

Varleton "Mac" McDonald
John Jangl
Kevin Monroe
Fleur Monroe
Beth DeAngelis
Lisa Parquette Silva
Matt Harrington

Lisa explained that the meeting tonight would focus on the NYSED visit and charter renewal.

Information/Discussion Items

1. Update on Financial Audit

MMB auditors were at the school on September 11th and 12th. They reviewed financial and student files checking for consistency and accuracy in our financial and student/employee records. There was not a great deal of feedback given at the time of the visit which is usually a positive indicator as notable issues are usually mentioned during the visit. Both Matthew Harrington and Lisa Silva were interviewed by the auditors and provided accurate answers to their questions. Representatives from CSBM were in attendance and acted as the liaison between MMB auditors and TNAACS staff. Matt met with Shelby, a partner at MMB who will join the board at an upcoming meeting to discuss the findings on the audit with the full board present

Matthew and Kevin Monroe will follow up in October with updated budget statistics and projections for the 2017-18 school year

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2. Charter Renewal

- a. Benchmark 1, which includes student performance data, is due October 2nd. A committee is currently working on this data analysis and will share the findings at the next board meeting. Sheila Osnes and Lisa are continuing to review the data. Interesting in the data, 58% are trending toward competency. More analysis will come next month.
- b. Our Public hearing for the charter renewal took place last Thursday. Fifty-four people came to the hearing, a positive sign since parents did not have a great deal of notice for the meeting given it was the first week of school. Fourteen people spoke on our behalf. Several parents who could not attend or did not want to speak submitted written endorsements.
- c. Our NYSED formal visit is scheduled for Monday September 25th and Tuesday September 26th. Board members are required to participate in a meeting with the NYSED representatives during this visit. Kimberly Santiago informed us that the time is flexible and that we need to follow-up to schedule meeting. This meeting must take place at the school. Kimberly is requesting if it might be a one-hour meeting on Monday, September 25th. The Director of the charter schools office, David Frank, will attend the meeting. Most board members were available at 4PM and Lisa will ask if it is acceptable if one board members (Beth) can conference in for the meeting.
- d. Board members should re-familiarize themselves with the renewal application specifically the sections regarding board oversight and student data and be prepared to speak about these items during the visit. Lisa sent another copy of the renewal application, specifically Benchmark 6 for additional review by the board.
- e. It was suggested that the board might want to consider recruiting additional members and board members agreed with this suggestion and will seek qualified candidates to be discussed at the next board meeting. Lisa will send a copy of the policy regarding parents ability to contact the board when not satisfied with the Headmaster.

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3. Board Self Evaluation Questionnaire

The board continues to refine a board self-evaluation. Lisa is evaluated using the Kim Marshall rubric and thought this may be a good starting point for board self-evaluation.

Feedback regarding Lisa Silva's evaluation included areas of improvement in increasing test scores. Lisa's strength is in building culture and systems and structures. One of the aspects to address would be the disconnect between the culture, parent satisfaction and test scores. Therefore, the evaluation is effective vs. highly effective in prior year.

TNAACS has begun paying TNAI on a "fee-for-service" contract as opposed to an annual contract. TNAI has already agreed to a fee structure for the Harvard Summer training program and has been invoiced for the services received. Given that TNAI is transitioning to a new CEO, TNAACS may continue to contract with the initiative in a fee-for-service manner.

One question will be how we notify parents about test scores which includes posting information on the school's website.

Another question, might be about how we evaluate ourselves and if we are recruiting new board members and members who can bring various areas of expertise. Mac agreed that this was important to think about and reaching out to the community via some form of communication (newspaper etc.) to recruit new members.

Mac had several questions about school statistics which Matt and Lisa reviewed.

What is the budget for a child with special needs?

0 - 20% services receives no additional funding

20 - 60% - additional \$10,390

over 60 % - additional \$19,049

General Ed is \$14,027

The TNAACS is 83% free and reduced price lunch (vs. 60% shown in on NYSED? website) – Matt explained that this was a mistake caused by using a different operating system that captured FRPL numbers during the 2014-15 school year when TNAACS contracted with Revolution Foods.

3% ELL's – less than the district

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16% special education – same as district

Lisa will follow up with a 4PM meeting request time, including a video call, how to recruit for new board members and what the ideal number is. Matt said that the ideal number is 10-13 members with a variety of expertise. Lisa will also send additional information i.e. her evaluation, holdover policy, etc for board to have to review.

Lisa will confirm the time of the NYSED meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7PM.