

New Horizons Board Meeting

January 28, 2016

Present – Stuart Cano, Board Chair

Jaenelle Lampp – Board Member

Dr. Castaneda - Board Member

Richard Thomas – Executive Director

Bea Italia, Autumn Hill, Amanda Hill, Guillermo Gomez, Adrienne Johnson, Diego Gonzalez, Sujata Alagh, Aleen Maadani, Deborah Pope, Jesica Kahng, and four parents

Meeting Commenced at: 4:12

Approval of the Minutes – Moved to accept the minutes of November 22nd, by Stuart Cano.

Presentation Autumn Hill 3rd Grade Teacher / New Horizons Elementary Teacher – Ms. Hill shared that she would encourage the Board to allow teachers to spend their additional funds on fitness to support teachers in their work environment. Many teachers have funds left-over on their insurance and many would like them to apply funds toward health memberships.

Mr. Cano – We would have to look into this, because funding is dedicated toward certain areas that are health related, we will let you know what is possible.

Parent Question / Instructional Rigor - I believe that many students are not being challenged across the grade-levels, where many students are laboring through certain standards (multiplication) specifically in mathematics. Many students are given homework that is not differentiated to the abilities of all students.

Diego Gonzalez (New Horizons Teacher) – I believe that I speak for many teachers when I share,

- We do not have enough time to complete our planning and recording demands
- I feel aides are being disrespected by administration
- Our plans are also belittled over the instruction that we do give

Amanda Hill / Kindergarten Teacher – I have several concerns but my chief ones involve having the time to record the voluminous amount of Kinder lessons to electronic platforms. I am a veteran teacher and even with my lengthy experience, I am stressed that there is not enough time in the day to complete and record my assignments.

Sujata Alagh / Third Grade Teacher - I would like to address the amount of time that we currently allow parents to visit and stay in our classroom. I feel that the currently, the amount of time that parents are allowed to visit is excessive. While we want parents to be informed, and invite them to observe student learning, unlimited visits form an impediment to instruction.

Data Measures Presentation / Mr. Thomas – The data scores measured the numeric gains grade by grade, in reading and mathematics. The expansive instructional growth is from a combination of the dynamic instruction from teachers, the usage of new purchased instructional materials and blended learning models. We celebrate these gains and look forward to moving all of our students one to two performance bands in this school year.

Now we do teach standards to proficiency, so we require teachers to add at least two assignments per standard to move students toward their ultimate goal of standard mastery. The Grade Books are a vital component in this

process and I believe it is our duty to keep parents informed, and maintain a standard of accuracy in recording student learning.

We also provide teachers with the instructional planning in multiple platforms. When you combine this with early-bird and late bird schedules, teachers have the opportunity apply differentiated instruction to meet the needs of our diverse student population.

Instructional Leadership Team – We also formed team of primary and secondary teachers to help address concerns and challenges with administration on a bi-weekly basis. Our objective is to be proactive in our communication with staff, as well as maintain our instructional goals.

Miss Johnson / New Horizon's returning 1st Grade Teacher – Mr. Thomas, you have improved so much, and we appreciate the effort you have made to provide a better climate.

Teacher Evaluations / Mr. Thomas– I would like to add that we have a 38 performance indicators tied to a Rubric in 4 domains which is used as a comprehensive list of items we use to advance teachers toward best practices. Evaluations are based solely on evidence from pre-conference planning, comprehensive non-editorialized scripted notes from lesson observation, student-work is collected as evidence and post-conference reflections are all connected into rubric to measure the evidence student learning.

Diego Gonzalez / New Horizons Teacher – We would like to be informed in advance of our evaluations, many of us feel rushed to plan and pre-conference our lessons. Can we be given more notice for the next evaluation cycle.

Mr. Thomas - I believe we gave ample time both through professional developments and planning sessions to prepare teachers for their evaluations. We also have ample walk-throughs to visit with teachers and give feedback on instructional best practices.

Facilities / Mr. Thomas – The facility would take us from 10,000 square feet to 17,000 square feet. In order to fund this, we need to have financial options when that will allow us to maximize our space for our current and future student populations.

Ryan Aldridge / California School Capital - We provide opportunities for schools to advance state payments and promote working capital to charter schools to help them finance their individual goals. We can support your school with financing that is both flexible and durable over time. We can finance you for 35 years, with five year renewals.

Mr. Cano – Can we afford it?

Mr. Thomas - Given our budget over a four year forecast, our ADA will easily support these numbers.

Financial Updates / Ervin Reed (Charter Impact)– It is important to keep your eyes on attendance, because the trend is dropping and it could impact your P2 over time. The balance sheet is solid, so despite some student movement, you are in very solid financial standing.

1st Interim Report of Budget was presented. Charter Impact noted the changes due to decrease in enrollment.

Silent Auction – We would like to recognize our parents for contributing \$1,300 from our Silent Auction.

The Banc of California also contributed \$3,000 to our school arts program.

Meeting adjourned at 7:16 PM.

Closed Session: 7:20pm