

New Horizons Charter Academy

Board Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2017

Present – Stuart Cano Board Chair, Stephan Rinka, Dr. Mario Castaneda, David Sams, Richard Thomas Executive Director

Others Present: Guillermo Gomez, Ramisi Dilley, Dawn Bastain, Gabe Soumakian

Meeting Commenced at: 4:13 PM

Approval of the Previous May 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

- Motion made to approve – Stephan Rinka
- Second – Stuart Cano
- Motion Carries – 4-0

Public Comment – None

403 (b) Employee Pension Options – Gabe Soumakian shared the benefits of 403B investments for educators. He also discussed the additional benefits of the portability and flexibility to his companies plans and managed funds. He shared that over a dozen employees have joined the programs he presents, and that several other employees have expressed interest in his services.

Stuart Cano – Can we contribute to this program? What are our options?

Gabe S. – You can, but I have only seen that done as a matching contribution by the employer.

Approval of the 403B Pension Plan

- Motion made to approve – Stephan Rinka
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries - 4-0

Executive Report

STEM Modules – The Board initially approved \$35,000 for our STEM modules. We have since looked at including additional modules, professional development, and more materials that will expand our cost proposal to \$68,000. There may be \$5,000 worth of wiggle room in this proposal, since we already have a Mac purchased, we are essentially adding \$35,000 to this project.

Stephan Rinka – Will there be a re-occurring cost?

Mr. Thomas – No, this is a one-time fee, many of these systems will require replenishments, but the major cost will encompass equipment purchased for this revised proposal. Most of these are stand-alone systems, whether robots or flight simulators, our systems will be in place.

Dr. Castanda – Have these materials been aligned to the NGSS standards?

Mr. Thomas – Yes, we have the alignment guides that show how these materials are aligned to the new standards.

Dr. Castaneda – I am not for this system. I realize technology is necessary, but pre-packaged systems don't often teach anything. We have doubled the cost of this system, with no guarantee that the students will receive anything for our efforts.

Mr. Thomas – These modules will be constructed as a rotation to complement and enrich the other four content areas. This project will support students in their transition to high school by exposing them to real-world tools applied to authentic problem-solving challenges.

Dr. Castaneda – If you believe this will be an enrichment to our current Common Core Standards and further develop our understanding of NGSS, then I am in support of this STEM program.

Approval of Paxton Stem Lab

- Motion made to approve – Stephan Rinka
- Second – Stuart Cano
- Motion Carries 4-0

Local Control And Accountability Plan (LCAP) – I would direct you to the highlight page I have provided for you. There are many areas addressed in this document, but these are the key features that we will be able to focus on. Some highlights to note, are our 95% attendance rate and extremely low suspension rate. Our school safety plan, which is one that we follow intently. Our preliminary data demonstrates that we have made substantial academic gains in both English and Mathematics.

Please see our LCAP reviewed in the first section of document from 1617 LCAP- What NHCA planned and what actually was executed from the plan and the expenditures. The second section of the LCAP is our expected plan for our New Goals for LCAP 17-18, the Metrics for measurement and the baseline used and what our projections are for the baseline going forward for 17-18 through 19-20 school years. Each Goal has the identified needed and action and services that will be implemented to address the goals. Also outlined in the LCAP is our Budget Expenditures related to each goal and our Stakeholder Input gathered as part of the development of the LCAP.

Dr. Castaneda – Very nicely produced Richard, easy to read, and very well constructed. The Goals for the new LCAP are aligned with the needs of the school and serves all students.

Approval of the LCAP Plan

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Castaneda
- Second – Stephan Rinka
- Motion Carries 4-0 Vote to Approve

May 2017 Financials – I would like to highlight page two, your enrollment is at 291. Your strong attendance rate is carrying you into a surplus of \$154,000, with very focused dollars on education. I would bring your attention back to page nine, where there is a total expenditure of \$148,000. Are there any questions on either list?

Dr. Castaneda – We bought an Apple TV and a separate device? Why did we do this?

Mr. Thomas – The Apple TV allows us to stream instructional programs that we cannot stream on regular TVs. This TV will be housed at Fair Avenue.

Board vote for May 2017 Financial Approval

- Motion made to approve – Stephan Rinka
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries 4-0

Final Financial Budget – We ended the year at \$282,000 our overall revenue will be up by \$300,000, despite the approval of certificated salaries and the addition of two additional certificated positions. You will have a new 4th grade class coming in, which will require additional instructional materials. Overall your total expenses will grow by \$3000,000, but you will end at \$891,000. You have room to grow, at 320, you could still be at a positive surplus to actively meet your goals as your LCAP dictates. Most of your changes will come in your contribution to STRS.

Approval of the Final Financial Budget for 2017-2018

- Motion made to approve – Stephan Rinka
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries 4-0 Vote

Request for (4) Additional Days of Administrative Work beyond 210 calendar days – My current responsibilities will allow me to complete additional hiring at both school sites, the budget, attend a new grantee orientation for after-school grant and the submission actions needed for LCAP 1718 to LACOE.

Approval of the (4) extra days at Daily Rate for Executive Director

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Castaneda
- Second – Stephan Rinka
- Motion Carries 4-0

Material Revision – We will be matriculating a revision that voices our expansion to 450 students, sharing our eventual growth by two classrooms in all grades K-8. This will happen gradually over time, but we are required to project our growth over time. NHCA Board would like to review all information related to draft of Material Revision that would be submitted prior to the Charter Renewal Petition.

Prop 39 – Right now, we will maintain the use of all classrooms, we just have not received a response from LAUSD, for their counter proposal .

TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, & BULLYING POLICY – Board reviewed and discussed the revised policy which was updated to address Title IX components outlined in SB 1375.

Approval of the TITLE IX, HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, DISCRIMINATION, & BULLYING POLICY

- Motion made to approve – Stephan Rinka
- Second – Dr. Castaneda

Motion Carries 4-0 Vote

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM