

## **Board Minutes**

### **The New Academy Charter School**

Minutes of the general meeting of the Board of Directors of The New Academy Charter School held on June 8, 2022.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Mr. William Nunn. Representative Joseph Preston, Mr. David Caliguiri, Mr. Kenneth Curcio and Ms. Susan Creighton were also present.
- II. In accordance with applicable law, Notice of Publication of the meeting was advertised in the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette on January 27, 2022 and the meeting was conducted at the 900 Agnew Road facility.
- III. Comments were requested from the public but there were none.
- IV. Minutes from the meeting of March 2, 2022 were reviewed and approved unanimously.
- V. Financial Report

Mr. Robert Grochowski presented the Financial Report. He began his report by indicating that the student census was lower than budgeted and that accordingly revenues and expenses were also down. He indicated it was likely that the charter school would experience a loss for the year ended June 30, 2022. He also indicated that grant money and the allocation of expenses would also affect the bottom line. He indicated that the retraction of the employee retention tax credit had a negative effect. It was also noted however that Community Specialists Corporation was required to make up any losses for the charter school in accordance with its agreement with the school. Mr. Grochowski also noted that the cash position was positive and that there were no borrowings. At this time, Mr. Grochowski presented the 2022-2023 budget which was reviewed by the Board. He indicated that it had been prepared carefully by staff and the recent inflation increase had been factored in to its development. The Budget was approved unanimously. The Financial report was also unanimously accepted at this time.

- VI. Report of Executive Director

Ms. Kristen Harpster reported that there were currently 75 students enrolled in the New Academy Charter School from the following school districts:

<b>School District</b>	<b># of Students</b>
Pittsburgh Public	45
Baldwin-Whitehall	0

Carlynton	0
Clairton	0
Duquesne	2
Fox Chapel	0
Gateway	0
McKeesport	3
Mt. Lebanon	1
Northgate	1
Penn Hills	1
Plum Boro	1
Quaker Valley	1
Shaler	2
Steel Valley	2
Sto Rox	3
West Mifflin	1
Wilkinsburg	6
Woodland Hills	6

Ms. Kristen Harpster also reported that there were currently 34 students (32 active and 2 pending) with Programs for Exceptionalities. Of these, 18 are from the Pittsburgh Public Schools. They are as follows:

<b>Exceptionality</b>	<b># of Students</b>
Emotional Disturbance	10 Students
Emotional Disturbance and Specific Learning Disability	5 Students
Emotional Disturbance and Other Health Impairment	0 Students
Emotional Disturbance/Specific Learning Disability/Other Health Impairment	1 Students
Specific Learning Disability	4 Students
Intellectual Disability	2 Students
Intellectual Disability and Emotional Disturbance	1 Student
Other Health Impairment	8 Students

Other Health Impairment and Specific Learning Disability	1 Students
Under Review	2 Students

Ms. Harpster also indicated that The New Academy CS (NACS) will continue to monitor the recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Education, CDC and the Governor of Pennsylvania. Recommendations will be implemented to the greatest extent possible. Enhanced cleaning, social distancing (per CDC guidelines), masking requirements and increased education on personal hygiene practices will continue to be implemented to keep our building open and operating safely. The New Academy CS will also continue to monitor and contact trace, to quickly react to outbreaks should they occur.

Ms. Harpster further reported that in preparation for the August 2022-2023 Teacher and Staff In-Service, the school will provide staff members with all of the Health and Safety trainings including ALICE (Active Shooter), SCM (Safety Crisis Management), Emergency Evacuation Drills, CPR/First Aid, Trauma and Suicide Prevention Training.

Ms. Harpster then went over the many grants obtained this year by the New Academy Charter School, as listed below.

<b>GRANT</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
Title I	\$55,400	Curriculum Enrichment
Title II Part A	\$5,403.00	Professional Development
Title IV	\$10,000	Student Enrichment
School Improvement	\$75,000	Student & Staff Support
ESSER II	\$188,031	School & Safety
ESSER III	\$380,061	School & Safety
Ready to Learn	\$ 9,277	Professional Development/Incentives
ESSER Fund (ARP ESSER) 7% Set Asides Consolidat	\$29,560.00	Learning Loss due to Pandemic

Ms. Harpster reported that the new School Improvement facilitator, in addition to, Dr. Meghan Murray, is Holly Pope and that the 3 year Comprehensive School Improvement Plan is due in its final form on June 30, 2022. She indicated the school has placed the plan, in its draft form, on the school website for the required 30 day review and that following the review period, it will be submitted to Pennsylvania Department of Education. She explained that the 3 year plan is a continuation of the 2021-2022 School Improvement Plan that consists of three major goals; Adult Social Emotional Learning (SEL) with an impact on students, Assessment and Curriculum. The new plan picks up where the school left off with new and more rigorous goals, updated and scaffolded action plans and an expenditure plan for the 2022-2023 School Improvement Funds. She indicated that this plan requires Board approval prior to submission to Pennsylvania Department of Education on June 30, 2022. At this time, a motion was made, seconded and approved with respect to the plan.

Ms. Harpster then went on to report that the school is using AIMSWeb as their benchmarking system in which all students are assessed 3 times a year in the areas of reading and math. The system identifies strengths and weaknesses for all students, and what is needed to do in order to shore up the Tier 1 level in our English/Language Arts and Math courses. She indicated this system is being used to build the school's RTI (Response to Intervention)/MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) systems by identifying which tier each student belongs based on their results. The school is monitoring progress throughout the year to insure students meet their rate of growth goals at each benchmark period.

Tier 1 - Students are performing at grade level or above

Tier 2 - Students are performing 2-3 grade levels below grade level

Tier 3 - Students are performing significantly below grade level

Based on this information, the school broke it down even further to determine specific areas students are struggling with, most of which are oral reading fluency, silent reading fluency, and number sense fluency. The school is working to put together an intensive intervention schedule for Tier 3 students. She indicated that the data has been analyzed for Tier 1 and 2 students and teachers are administering SLA's (Survey Level Assessments) to see where those students are with their reading and math levels so the school can properly monitor their progress. Teachers are working on different intervention strategies within their Reading and Math classes.

Ms. Harpster then reported that a student recruitment task force has been established and meets regularly to discuss initiatives to increase enrollment. The current initiatives include an updated brochure for distribution and a Summer Open House that will include invitations to probation, magistrates, current and prospective families and local school leaders.

Ms. Harpster further reported that the Spring Open House was held on May 10, 2022 and the school hosted about approximately 20 visitors to a tour of the facility. She indicated that relationships with agencies were strengthened and enrollment packets were issued for both Summer School and Fall 2022.

VII. Legal

Mr. Norris reported that there were no new claims. He then thanked the Board for returning the Conflict of Interest and Financial interest forms. Mr. Norris then reviewed the Code of Conduct with the Board. A resolution authorizing the Board President and the Executive Director to execute documents electronically with the Pennsylvania Department of Education was then moved, seconded and unanimously approved. At this time, a motion approving Mr. Curcio as the Treasurer was made, seconded and approved unanimously. Mr. Caliguiri will continue to serve as Board Secretary. The next item addressed was the consideration of Ms. Katie Micco for the Board. After reviewing and discussing Ms. Micco's background, a motion to appoint her to the Board was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

VIII. New Business

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 14, 2022.

VIV. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.