

NOCCS Board Minutes June 17, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of North Oakland Community Charter School was held on June 17, 2015 at 6 pm at the School. The meeting was called to order at 6:25 p.m.

The following members of the Board were present: Mia Birdsong, Ann Gordon, Carolyn Gramstorff, Sahra Halpern, Tracy Hanna, Adam Howell, Kristen McClusky, Pamela Rich

Stephen Ajani, David Bond and Aleshia Reeves were also present.

Public Comment

Mia Birdsong gave an appreciation to Carolyn for her 8 years of service. Aleshia Reeves concurred and extended gratitude on behalf of the FTO.

Minutes

Tracy and Ann proposed edits to the draft minutes of the last board meeting held on May 20, 2015. Edits were made to the LCAP, Special Education, signing assurances and parent elections sections of the draft minutes.

Carolyn moved to approve the amended minutes. Kristen seconded the motion. The board voted to amend and approve the draft minutes of the last board meeting held on May 20, 2015. Seven approved; Pamela Rich abstained.

Carolyn moved to approve the draft minutes of the special Board meeting held on May 18 2015. . Tracy seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the draft minutes. Seven approved; Pamela Rich abstained.

Stephen Ajani Introduction

Mr. Ajani introduced himself and provided background on his working style, education, and career highlights so far. Highlights of his work include a 2 percent attrition rate at the school he led in Brooklyn, NY, having the highest rated school for KIPP, having the highest scores for African American students and the 5th highest scores for low income students, and having teachers he's hired going to be principals. The current strategic plan drew him to NOCCS, and he looks forward to focusing on academic performance, teacher retention, building relationships with families and ensuring a parent voice in the school.

Carolyn shared her observations of Steve in their time working together and said that he asks good questions, has good instincts and intuition, is off to a great start in building relationships with the staff. She believes he will be a great next leader for the school.

LCAP

Carolyn reported on the work she and Steve have been doing on the LCAP for this year's submission. Their goal is to restructure the document so it can serve as the home document for NOCCS's annual goals and make it easy to update each year for submission to OUSD. It includes the current best thinking and staffing plan to date. The MPIs are currently in red. The goals from the strategic plan will be scaled down to three and five year chunks to meet the LCAP structure. The LCAP will not report on specific academic results due to SBAC implementation.

Carolyn recommended approving the current version of the LCAP and appointing a small working group to finalize it in time for the submission deadline on June 30. The following Board members volunteered to be on the work group: Sarah, Tracy, Stephen, and Carolyn.

Carolyn moved to approve the current version and appoint a work group to finalize it; Mia seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the LCAP based on the goals that have been established in the draft strategic plan and with the measurable pupil outcomes that were approved in January as part of our 2015-20 charter and appoint a committee to do a final read through and approval in time for the June 30 submission deadline.

Budget

Sarah reviewed the proposed 2015-16 budget summary and answered questions. This is in good shape due to increases in state funding. It includes approximately two months of reserve funds, a 9% salary increase for lead teaching staff and an at least 3% salary increase for all other staff. Sarah recommended that the Board develop a goal of working towards increasing reserves. The SELPA reserve is not reflected in the budget and the ending fund balance includes the Proposition 39 restricted funds for energy efficiency upgrades. A recommendation was made to include the SELPA reserve and the PEC reserve to the budget summary. Mia said that the Fall Board retreat will include a budget 101 agenda item for Board members who would like to enhance their understanding of the budget.

Carolyn moved to approve the 2015-16 budget and Sahra seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Capital Campaign

David presented the Development Committee's proposal for closing the Capital Campaign as of December 2015.

Carolyn moved to approve the recommendation; Tracy seconded.

The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

External Board Candidates

Jenny presented a summary of the five applicants for the two open external Board seats. The Board discussed the candidates qualifications and skills currently needed on the Board.

Mia moved to elect applicants Luis Rodriguez and Mariah Landers as new Board members and to appoint Raja to lead a new committee on data/technology. Carolyn seconded.

The Board unanimously approved the motion.

Strategic Plan

Mia discussed the strategic plan and proposed that the Board approve the current plan's four priority areas and that the strategic plan committee work with Stephen over the summer to get it in shape to review at the Fall Board retreat. Sarah recommended that it be put into an easily digestible format to enhance understanding and buy in.

Pam moved the above; Mia seconded. The Board voted to approve the motion.

Eight approved; one opposed - Carolyn

The following members agreed to be on the committee: Mia, Stephen, Carolyn, Kristen, Sahra, Pam

Change Signers of Fiduciary Matters

To address staffing and board membership changes, Carolyn moved to remove Carolyn, Erica, and Rachel as signers for NOCCS fiduciary matters and to add Stephen, Tracy, and Sahra as new signers. Sahra seconded the motion.

The Board voted unanimously to change the signers of fiduciary matters and remove Carolyn Gramsdorff, Erica Mackie and Rachel Venning and add Stephen Ajani, Tracy Hanna, and Sahra Halpern

Closed Session to Discuss Personnel and Special Education Complaint

The Board received and update from Carolyn and Steve on the administrative structure and staffing for the 2015-16 school year as well as on the the Special Education compliance complaint against OUSD and NOCCS.

Adjourn

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Gordon, Secretary