

NOCCS Board Minutes September 21, 2015

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of North Oakland Community Charter School was held on **September 21, 2015 at 6 pm** at the School. The meeting was called to order at **6:25 pm**.

The following members of the Board were present:

Stephen Ajani, Leslie Bell, Mia Birdsong, Stephen Fox, Teresha Freckleton-Petite, Juliana Germak, Ann Gordon, Sahra Halpern, Tracy Hanna, Mariah Landers, Kristen McClusky, Luis Rodriguez, Joy Sherrod, Rachel Vyda-Venning, Lakisha Young

Public Comment

Nancy Kaufman-Cohen, parent of an 8th grade student and a NOCCS graduate raised concerns about the middle school math program no longer including algebra. She would like kids who are motivated to have the opportunity to take higher level math than is currently offered. Currently many high schools, including Oakland Tech, allow incoming students to take placement tests to determine whether they can move into higher level math classes which allows them to advance more quickly. Ms. Kaufman-Cohen sees this as an equity issue and strongly urged NOCCS to reconsider its current math curriculum and add back algebra. The Board will take this under consideration and respond shortly.

Minutes

Tracy moved to approve the August minutes; Luis seconded the motion. There were 12 votes in favor, zero abstentions, and zero no votes.

Head of School Update

Mr. Ajani pointed out some key points from his monthly board update:

- A more detailed briefing on SBAC results will be presented at the next Board meeting.
- There are currently 9 seats open in the school and 5 offers out. Lakisha recommended adding wait list numbers by grade to this report in the future. The Board discussed ways to get the word out about openings and suggested posting them in the Blast and on the NOCCS FB and Yahoo pages. Steve is excited to do recruiting and will lead the charge.
- Staffing: one 8th grade student requires a 1:1 aide. An aide has been hired and will start soon. There are no other students who require aides, but there are two students who may require counseling in their IEPs which will require hiring a part-time counselor.
- As far as school climate and culture, the current focus is time on task and all eyes on me when teachers request it. Once this is consistent, then next steps will be taken based on an assessment of what will work best.
- Steve is also working to ensure the Elevate staff are integrated into the staff and that they have the support they need and are “stage ready” to be with students.

Finance Updates

Ed Tech Associate Client Manager, Kelly Hoppe, provided the monthly financial update. Overall, finances are in good shape due to one time increases in state funding. Final June State Budget approval included a slightly lower LCFF implementation rate, one-time funding for schools, and revised SB740 eligibility. Unaudited actuals were submitted with an unrestricted operating surplus of \$30K and a fund balance of \$544K; \$20K higher than in previous forecast. NOCCS concluded the year with an unrestricted surplus of \$30K as well as an additional \$96K in restricted revenues for Prop 39. Projected operating income has increased by \$86K since June's approved budget; major driver was \$115 in additional one-time revenues.

The board discussed the need to do further planning for spending Proposition 39 funds for environmental improvements. Sahra asked Kelly questions about the forecasting process, and Kelly explained that depending on the availability of data some items are updated frequently while others are watched and acted upon when spending is active. Sahra said that the Finance Committee will be developing new policies and procedures to support NOCCS' budgeting process. These include determining reserve levels and clarifying coding.

Committee Updates

There were no questions about Board committee updates that were emailed to the Board as pre-reads.

Strategic Planning

Mariah led an exercise designed to surface feedback on the current strategic plan draft. The Board will discuss the plan further at the Board Offsite on 9/27/15.

Closed Session

The Board discussed two agenda items under closed session.

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