



Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2021

Present: Board Members: Heather Allcock, Ph.D.
Nuria Alonso García, Ph.D.
Ana Barraza
Steffy Molina
David Moscarelli
Lydia Pérez
Carmen Rolón, Ph.D.
Seth Zaren

Also Present: Katie Cardamone, Program Director
Joseph Maruszczak, Ed.D., Supt/Executive Director

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm

The meeting agenda was approved, 8-0 (Motion by A. Barraza, Seconded by S. Zeren)

Introductions

The Board exchanged introductions and shared their individual backgrounds and why they were invested in the success of NMPCS.

Superintendent/Executive Director's Report

CSP Start-Up/Implementation Grant Award

Dr. Maruszczak detailed that the school has submitted a grant application with a thorough explanation of all our pre-opening needs. During the first week of January Nuestro Mundo received approval for the grant and are now moving forward with financial plans and setting up a bank account and line of credit. We are currently dealing with Navigant and Pawtucket Credit Union to see if they will give us a \$50,000 credit along with a setting up our business account there. Bigger banks don't want to take a chance on a start up, but we are waiting to hear back from these local credit unions to see if they will work with us.

- Seth asked for clarification on the budget spreadsheet that was shared, if it was two x \$200,000 for the grant, Joe said no- two installments of \$400,000

Facility Search Update

The co-founders are working on arrangements with two facilities: 21 Gordon Ave- interesting history, good work has been put into the building but still needs a build out to be suitable for a school. The owner is a builder so he can do the work. We are working on a LOI , but the challenge is the environmental regulations. The School Siting Law requires strict standards for schools, so it may be challenging to get both the environmental studies and the remediation

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done in time to open in the fall. We are working with SAGE environmental and DEM to see if we can get this done.

The other potential building is 545 Prairie Ave. It is an old trolley barn and remains a shell of a building, but a good choice since we could grow into it and have space for a gym and all our needs. It will need extensive work and time for a build out. Therefore we would need to find a temporary home for one year. Henry Barnard would be a great solution. We have reached out to them but waiting to hear back. Since their enrollment is low, it could be a win-win. A parent group is taking the school private and raising tuition, so we have reached out to them. Plus there is some mission overlap between Nuestro Mundo and the Barnard School.

- Ana commented that she likes that Prairie Ave is in proximity to two schools, therefore you're not introducing school culture to a neighborhood that is not already used to this culture- that type of traffic and busing/awareness about younger people in the area already exists.
- Nuria noted that the South Providence Community Library is also on that street and that PC already has relationships with them and Nuria does programming there and knows of other good programming for kids that goes on. She also likes the idea of partnering with RIC.
- Heather likes that Prairie would be a good long term solution but concerned about the costs. Joe and Seth mentioned organizations that fund charters.
- Carmen asked if Prairie had environmental concerns, and Katie answered it most likely does.
- Seth brought up public school space, even though the state/RIDE has taken over the schools it is the city that owns the buildings in Providence which makes a co-share with public space difficult.
- Joe mentioned that Steve Osborn of RIDE brought up a co-share with public schools initially, but in spite of the political divisiveness that would most likely not be a good idea
- Carmen compared when the state took over the NYC public schools and tried to share space with charter schools and how that did NOT work out.
- Ana seconded that, sharing the history of Times2 Academy.

Recruitment Efforts & Next Steps

The NM Founding Group did our 5th family information night last week. 38 families attended. Outreach is going well. We will be making posters to hang up in the Boys and Girls Clubs.

Senate Bill No. 13

A companion bill in the House was released today. The Senate hearing in the Education Committee was today and the Bill was voted out of committee, despite a lot of public testimony opposing it.

MABE Annual Conference- March 19-20

Nuestro Mundo Board members are invited to this conference as a way to learn more about dual language education. There is a good line of presenters during this two day virtual conference. Nuria and Katie are also presenting. Please contact Katie if you are able to attend.

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New Business

Approval of NMPCS Bylaws

Approved 8-0, (Motion H. Allcock, Seconded by L. Pérez)

Approval of NMPCS Policies

Admissions Policy

Approved 8-0, (Motion by L. Pérez, Seconded by H. Allcock)

Financial Management Policy & Procedures

- Joe commented this is thorough- put together by Bartman and Gilman. Speaks to checks and balances.

Approved 8-0, (Motion by A. Barraza, Seconded by D. Moscarelli)

Approval of Superintendent/Executive Director Contract

- Dave asked a question on the contingency of Joe's position if there is a charter freeze or we do not receive final approval. Joe explained the contract does not start until July 1st, so we will know of approval by then.

Approved 8-0, (Motion by A. Barraza, Seconded by N. Alonso)

Unanimously approved

Future agenda items:

- Develop Board roles- organize by subcommittees and officers
- Priorities: we will need a board treasurer- to sign off on checks of \$5,000 or more
- Board Chair is also open
- Policies for future meetings: Hiring, Outreach, Financial relating to CSP grant
- Dave suggested checking with Education Action

Community Comments

None

The Board voted 8-0 to adjourn at 8:02 pm (Motion by A. Barazza, Seconded by C. Rolón)

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Cardamone

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