



Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 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 10:02 am

The meeting agenda was unanimously approved, (motion by A. Barraza, seconded by C. Rolón)

The minutes of the January 27, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved, (motion by A. Barraza, seconded by N. Alonso)

Superintendent/Executive Director's Report

Facility Update

Dr. Maruszczak reported that efforts are focused on successfully reaching an agreement for a lease for the facility at 21 Gordon Avenue, as it remains our most viable option at this point in the process. We are working with Christine West, of Kite Architects in Providence, to develop plans for the initial build out for our first two years, and plans for an expansion project beyond that period. We conducted a walkthrough of the facility with the owner on the previous day to better envision the tentative plans she has drafted.

- Seth brought up library, conference room, good lighting in basement
- Joe & Heather pointed out the necessity for a conference room for annual IEP meetings and evaluations
- Ana stressed the importance of the first floor K library, 2nd floor, bookshelves made onto the walls, centralizing it- making it visible, focal point, emphasizes literacy
- Steffy pointed out the importance of easy accessibility for kids
- Seth suggested movable partitions
- Joe agreed, pointing out that the vision is to create flex space
- Ana- functional to our purpose
- Dave asked about walls, leveraging the idea that this was built as a green sustainable buildings and that windows- used to have light shields

- Seth asked about a backup plan and about DEM and remediation plan and public hearings
- Discussion on the importance of notifying the community about the school location and how to do this
- Carmen stated that it would be great to create a flyer to show how the building will be used in/with the community
- Nuria offered to facilitate a community town hall at the library to discuss the plans for the school
- Steffy said that she can connect with Carolina, Nuria also does a lot of work with her at the community library
- Dave asked about buses and parking since that can annoy neighbors

Update on Recruitment and Enrollment

Dr. Maruszczak shared the *EnrollRI* common application portal for all RI charter schools and showed that at the current time, we have 187 students that have applying for admission: 98 for K, 45 for 1st grade, and 44 for 6th grade. At present we are reaching out to churches, restaurants and bodegas. Our connection from Steffy, Claudia from Progreso Latino has also been invaluable with regard to community outreach.

- Ana asked a question on reaching out to those who have enrolled to inform them of the details/mission/ educational program of NM, so they actually know what they are signing up for.
- Joe explained that we are doing information nights and inviting those parents that have applied to these information nights and also sending them newsletters through Constant Contact

Pre-Opening Checklist & Status

Dr. Maruszczak showed the Excel sheet that is used by RIDE to track progress for all pre-opening tasks. NM is progressing nicely toward all necessary tasks for final approval in April.

Senate Bill No. 13

On February 10 the RI Senate voted overwhelmingly, 30-6, to approve Senate Bill No. 13, which would place a three-year moratorium on all charter schools, including us and those that were initially approved in December. At this point, the companion bill in the House, House Bill 5193, has been transferred to the House Finance Committee for consideration. However, a hearing before this committee has not yet been scheduled. This may seem to indicate that the new Speaker of the House and the House in general may be acting in a different manner than the Senate. There is some political thinking that a slow walk of this bill may be beneficial to all charters, as after the statewide lottery is held on April 1, it will be considerably more difficult to approve a retroactive moratorium to schools such as NM who have already accepted students and their families.

- Seth asked is there any distinction between the independent and mayoral academies in the executing of the bill. Joe replied there is not.

New Business

Board Organization

Dr. Maruszczak gave background information on the roles and responsibilities for all officer

positions and standing committees.

- Seth- volunteered for finance committee, does not want an officer
- Heather- evaluation and finance, board chair or vice chair
- Steffy- nominating committee
- Dave- Treasurer, facility and finance
- Ana- vice chair, facilities or finance
- Carmen- vice chair, nominating committee or any other
- Nuria- evaluation committee, nominations
- Lydia- nominating committee and wherever else

After some discussion, Dr. Maruszczak stated that he would send out a short survey in advance of the next Board meeting on March 24 so that the selection of standing committee positions could be streamlined and equitable.

Approval of NMPCS Policies

Dr. Maruszczak gave background of the two draft policies. We have received these prototype policies from both the RI League of Charter Schools and our legal counsel, Matt Plain. He also noted that as positions are posted, we will share job descriptions with the Board as they are developed.

Hiring Policy & Procedures: Unanimously approved (motion by A. Barazza, second by N. Alonso)

- Seth asked a question about staffing plans and hiring educators of color and bilingual. Joe explained the sources where we will be posting jobs, e.g., School Spring, MABE, etc.
- Heather also noted that PC will be an avenue of recruitment.

Outreach Policy: Unanimously approved (motion by H. Allcock, second by N. Alonso)

The Board voted to adjourn at 11:35 am. (motion by H. Allcock, second by C. Rolón)

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Cardamone