



Nuestra Mundo Public Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

November 15, 2021

7:00 p.m.

NMPCS, 17-21 Gordon Avenue., Providence, RI
Conference Room

In attendance:

Heather Allcock
David Moscarelli
Seth Zaren
Carmen Rolón
Lydia Pérez

Also in attendance:

Katie Cardamone
Joe Maruszczak

Call to Order by H. Allcock at 7:13 pm

Approval of Agenda/Minutes

(Motion by L Perez, seconded by C. Rolón)

Agenda and minutes unanimously approved

Superintendent/Executive Director's Report

- Staffing Update

Dean of Students- hired Robert Brennan has 20 years of experience at Ocean Tides. Started November 2nd. This Thursday Karen Obispo will be joining us as a first grade teaching assistant. We are delighted to have more TAs to train them as teachers and 'grow our own'.

- COVID Precautions/Vaccination Efforts

Will host a clinic here during the week of the 29th. Promoting this to family and community. We only have a 3% vaccination rate since we only have the two 6th grade classes, but now that 5-12 is approved.

- Grade Reporting

Prototype report card was shared. For 6th grade there will be a number report card, but elementary will have a standards based report card. Middle school has quarters and elementary has semesters.

- NMPCS Family & Community Engagement Committee

The committee met for the first time last Wednesday. We conducted the meeting in Spanish, as the majority of parents that showed up were Spanish dominant. The parents really wanted to come in and volunteer despite the COVID restrictions. Our first objective is to celebrate how different cultures celebrate the winter holidays, with an event close to the winter break. We will continue

Program Director's Report

- Facility Update

We are pleased to share that we now have the lower level as an occupiable space to add to our school. We originally worked with the architects to design this space specifically for early childhood, kindergarten and first grade classrooms. There are two adjoining classrooms for kindergarten and two for first grade. There is also a multipurpose space with access to bathrooms designed for the younger students. Included in the layout is a resource library, teachers' lounge, and janitorial room. We are pleased with how the space has been transformed into a comfortable and appealing learning environment, without the feel of a basement.

Upon receiving all the inspections for the lower level, we began using the classrooms for music, dance, and OT/SLP (since K and 1 are already located on main and upper levels). We look forward to stocking our resource library and adding amenities to the teachers' lounge.

Additional updates to the building have been fixing the forced hot air system, adding a heat pump system to the lower level, adding missing doors and electrical outlets to the nurse's office and general office area. We also have installed a buzzer system to let people in via the main entrance on Reynolds and have playground equipment in the garage to be installed next week.

During the storm on Friday we had several leaks. Water seems to be getting around the perimeter flashing in many areas. We communicated this to Eric and he immediately sent a roofer who will be working to resolve the issues this weekend.

- Master Schedule- Successes & Challenges

Our dual language 50/50 rotating half day schedule, while complicated, is starting to become routine for students and staff (Please see attached schedule). It is one of many options in the dual language world, but we felt strongly about equity between the two languages and allowing teachers to hone in on specific content areas, with the addition of being responsible for two classes, i.e. twice the students.

In addition to this layered schedule, all of our specialists are not full time employees but rather contracted through another school or from Maestro Music and have limited hours they are available. This presents quite the puzzle in scheduling support staff such as our Special Education teachers and English language development teachers, but with our literacy and WIDA screening completed, we are working out the best schedule/support systems possible for our students.

- *Choose Love* Curriculum

Choose Love is a free Social Emotional Learning (SEL) curriculum for grades K-12. Kathy Frechette, one of our 6th grade teachers, has taught the program before and highly recommends it. After reading more about the program [here](#), the team agreed it is a quality character education tool and we will be rolling out the lessons starting with 6th grade this week. The program will be taught by our guidance counselor and a new employee, Vaughn Martin. Martin started as a substitute, but has a good repertoire with students and a background in psychology. If this goes well, we hope to add him in a more permanent role and implement *Choose Love* in kindergarten and first grade.

New Business

- Refined FY2022 NMPCS Budget

Dr. M shared the updated budget for the school year and the reimbursements we will get from lunches, ESSER II & III, and grants.

- Expansion of the NMPCS Board

Two parents

Two teachers

- Subcommittee Work

Budget - Heather, Lydia, Dave- Working Session Wednesday, January 5th at 7pm

Academic Oversight - Carmen, Heather, Steffy, Nuria- Working session- will send doodle poll

Facility Committee - Seth

Community Comments - none

Future Agenda Items

- Working Subcommittee Updates- December 13

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 pm (motion by S. Zeren, seconded by C. Rolon)