



Nuestro Mundo Public Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2021

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

Lower Level Common Area

Present: Dr. Heather Allcock, Steffy Molina, Seth Zeren, Ana Barraza, and Lydia Perez

Also Present: Katie Cardamone, Joe Maruszczak

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

The agenda for the meeting was approved unanimously (motion by S. Zeren, seconded by L.Perez)

The minutes of the meeting of October 6, 2021 were approved unanimously (motion by L.Perez, seconded by S. Zeren)

The minutes of the meeting of November 15, 2021 were approved unanimously (motion by S. Zeren, seconded by A. Barraza)

Superintendent/Executive Director's Report

1st Quarter Grading- Grade 6

Dr. Maruszczak reported that November 17th marked the end of the first quarter for our 6th grade students. We used a 0-100 grading scale for all courses, along with a 1-4 rubric for "Success Skills," i.e., social-emotional skills integral for success in school. Please see attached sample report cards (as we did them in both English and Spanish) as well as the list of 1st quarter Honor Roll, which required a cumulative average of 85 or higher, no grade below 80, and Success Skills scores of 3 and 4. We are proud of our twelve 6th grade students that achieved first-ever Honor Roll status!

COVID-19 Data & Impacts

Dr. Maruszczak also reported that as we are a microcosm of society, we too have seen a recent spike in COVID-19 infections. To date, we have had a total of six cases in our school community; however, three in the past week. As a result of the most current three cases, we have had a total of 24 students as close contacts after the contact tracing process. This has resulted in a poor attendance rate (for example, we were at 71% on Friday). Under current state policy, students who are identified as close contacts and unvaccinated must quarantine for at least five days, and on the fifth day, they may test using a PCR test. When they have received a negative test, they may return to clases.

We have booked with the RIDOH a vaccination clinic to be here at Nuestro Mundo on Friday, December 17 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. The clinic will be for children, ages 5-11 and will feature the Pfizer vaccine. The follow-up clinic will be Friday, January 11 from 4:00-6:00 pm. The clinic is open for our students, but also any member of the public. Additionally, we will be learning more next month about the state's "Test to Stay" program, which would allow

students identified as close contacts to stay in school, provided that they could do a rapid antigen test during the initial five days post contact.

NMPCS Family & Community Engagement Committee Update

The second meeting of the Family & Community Engagement Committee was Wednesday (the minutes are available [here](#)). We had about 20 families participate/join the zoom meeting. The work of the committee continued to focus on having parents volunteer in the school in a safe manner, as the following [survey](#) has been generated. Additionally, parents expressed interest in additional support for their children in learning Spanish. Of particular interest was more support for non-Spanish speakers, perhaps in the form of conversational clubs for strictly English speaking parents. We will be pursuing this avenue in the new year.

Program Director's Report

Benchmark Assessments Administered

Katie and Dr. Maruszczak showed slides on recent beginning of the year literacy and math benchmark assessments. The school utilizes a variety of assessments to gauge English and Spanish proficiency and math skills based on the Common Core State Standards.

Heather added that EasyCBM has a feature where you can look at the percentiles for that time of year benchmarks, in addition to the graphs that were shared.

Steffy brought up the point of collecting data on the effects of the Native English students in dual language programs and the effects that has on the families.

Steffy brought up career day in Spanish, involving parents more to elevate/teach the Spanish language. Seth brought up that through PBL we can include projects where Spanish is the language of power. Highlight where languages will be important, Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world.

New Business

Next Steps- Facility Exploration

Seth spoke that finding another facility would be challenging. All avenues he pursued on other facilities came up as dead ends. Seth brought up taking over the street to expand the school and using the street as facility space between our building and the parking lot.

There were no community comments.

Future Agenda items

- Working Subcommittee Updates- December 13
- Identify Policy Committee
- Report on Finance Committee
- Strategy for Expansion of Board
- Discuss Unite Us

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Katie Cardamone

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. Also, the timeframe for each topic is a general guideline and may not be strictly adhered to. <http://nuestromundopcs.org>