



Nuestra Mundo Public Charter School

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

February 28, 2022

Virtual Meeting through Zoom

Present: Dr. Heather Allcock, Steffy Molina, Seth Zeren, and Dr. Carmen Rolón

Also Present: Katie Cardamone, Joe Maruszczak

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm

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

The minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2021 were approved unanimously (motion by S. Zeren, seconded by S. Molina)

Superintendent/Executive Director's Report

Enrollment Update

Dr. M reported that our enrollment has been stable. The chart below is as of Monday, February 28, our enrollment is the following:

Grade	Girls	Boys	Total
K	23	19	42
1	23	19	42
6	21	23	44
All	67	62	128

This amount represents ten fewer students than our maximum enrollment of 138 students, which is permissible per our approved charter. Our enrollment has been very stable since mid-November, as it had been consistently at 129 up until last Thursday.

The lottery applications for next year are 394. Entry for the lottery on April 1 ends March 17.

Enrollment is directly tied to our budget and we have been relatively stable but have recruitment work to do to promote our vision.

Facility Update and Planning

We have obtained a proposal from Frank Karpowicz Architects, Inc. to draft a conceptual design for the expansion/renovation of the existing facility on Gordon Avenue. We do not have a budgeted amount for this expense; however, we could probably manage it over this fiscal year and the next. However, the pros and cons of remaining in our current building need to be studied in detail, as well as exploring what minimal options may exist in the city.

Program Director's Report

NMPCS Standards-Based Report Card

Katie reported on her work with the kindergarten and first grade teams to design a standards-based report card that is carefully aligned with the appropriate grade level standards in English language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Report cards will go home with students in February.

New Business

Unite Us Presentation

Steffy gave an overview of *Unite Us Rhode Island*, a coordinated network of health and social service providers.

Unite Us connects social care and health care with schools and non-profits. Schools are an important part of the organization. It's a tool that social workers and nurses at schools can use and therefore an avenue for *Unite Us* to help the community.

Schools send the referral on families' behalf. Referrals can be for food, housing, bills, healthcare, etc.

Emergencies are also taken care of as a priority...but we will contact *Kids Link of RI* for suicide prevention cases first and then make the *Unite us* referral.

Nuestro Mundo joining *Unite Us* was approved unanimously (S. Molina made a motion to approve, seconded by H. Allcock)

Sponsored by *Kids Link RI*, *Lifespan*, *United Way of RI*, etc. They can do anything from refer families to support/information...to helping schools to start community gardens

Unite Us will provide Nuestro Mundo five licenses and come to train the school staff.

Review/Revision of NMPCS Policy on Face Coverings

A draft revised policy on Face Coverings was approved prior to the start of this school year. With Governor McKee allowing the PK-12 school mask mandate to expire as of March 4, the decision to go to optional masking is strictly left to the local level.

NM has reflected on this a great deal, as well as brainstormed with the staff, and then presented a proposal to NM families for feedback. Dr. M proposed that as of Monday, March 7, we transition to a mask-optional policy. A presentation has been shared with families and the draft revised policy. The mindset is to transition to optional masking,

but also to put some safeguards in place to ensure safety and also to have a fallback position in the event that there is yet another spike in infections. The feedback we have received from parents has been overwhelmingly positive.

Carmen asked what about the students/staff with immunocompromised family members? These families will have the option to continue to wear masks and participate in the pooled testing.

Seth asked how we can get more of our student population vaccinated? We discussed the clinics we have had so far and ideas for the future about this.

After much discussion, it passed by majority, 3-1, to start the mask optional policy on March 7th (Motion by S.Molina, seconded by C. Rolón)

Budget Forecast for FY23/Proposed Enrollment

The leadership team, after much discussion, has decided that the wisest path moving forward would be to accept two kindergarten classes and one sixth grade class for next school year. Due to space constraints, we will look to accept 20 students per K class. This allows additional space for elective classes and related services such as SLP, OT, and PT. It also makes sense to take fewer 6th grade students for the simple reason of the breadth and depth of services and attention we need to provide to our middle school students. That is the rationale behind having only one cohort of 6th grade students next year.

Future agenda items:

- Budget
- Approve new school year calendar for 2022-23
- Policy binder
- Expansion of Board of Directors
- Efficacy of the masking policy
- Facility update

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 pm. (Motion by S. Molina, seconded by S. Zeren)

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>