

**Niagara Charter School
Minutes of Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
October 17, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

Trustees in Attendance: Amy Meshulam, Mary Scheeler, Ricky Scott, Christina Lesh, Judy DiCamillo, Lauren Howe-Nalls

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Darci Novak, Jill Keicher, Aimee Gonzalez, Megan Corsaro, Alex Filips, Lillian Blatner, Christie Grant, Theresa Boniface, Andrea Hopkins, Rebecca Armstrong, Megan Ackerman

Others: Jonathan Schechter, attorney for NCS

Excused Absence: James C. Muffoletto. Christine Smith-Koziel

Unexcused Absence:

The meeting was called to order at 5:10 PM with Vice President, Amy Meshulam presiding.

Public Notice was confirmed.

The agenda was approved on a motion made by Mrs. DiCamillo and seconded by Mr. Scott.

The minutes for the regular meeting of September 19, 2023 were approved on a motion made by Mrs. Scheeler and seconded by Mrs. Howe-Nalls. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Mrs. Aimee Gonzalez and Mrs. Megan Corsaro presented the rebranding of Niagara Charter School's Family School Association to Parent Lighthouse Team. Mrs. Gonzalez and Mrs. Corsaro are looking for a group of dedicated parents to join the Parent Lighthouse Team. Goals of the Parent Lighthouse Team include increasing parent and family involvement, informing and educating parents on the Leader in Me process, and utilize parents to promote NCS and recruit new students.

AAO Report, Jill Keicher

Leaders of the Month: Students demonstrated Habit 1: Be Proactive for the month of September. Crew 101-Caliph P.; Crew 102-Mattalee D.; Crew 103-Heaven H.; Crew 104-Alynnah C.; Crew 105-Asa G.; Crew 106-Syn'Cere A.; Crew 107-Aniya G.; Crew 108-Ella K.; Crew 114-Josiah B.; Crew 115-Isaiah H.; Crew 116-Laila R.; Crew 117-JaiThen P.; Crew 118-Arabella R.; Crew 119-Giana N.; Music-Aubree H.; Gym-Ashton E.; NCS support staff-Clarissa H.; Mrs. Felmet-Gabriella T.

Christie Grant, Dean of Students, was nominated for Employee Leader of the Month for the month of September.

CAO Report, Dr. Darci Novak

Professional Development

- The restorative practice team (Darci Novak, Jill Keicher, Christie Grant, Jared Curren, Theresa Boniface, Sara Felmet & Sherrie Tracy) met with Lori DeCarlo for their monthly meeting.
- Erie 1 BOCES coordinators (Elizabeth Kraemer, Susan Cyruлик, Kristin Witkowski, Nicole Kerner) were at NCS for 4 days meeting with teachers on ELA building background knowledge, Science curriculum implementation, Math data, and behavior management support.
- 2 staff members (Kim Abrams & Lauren Nowicki) attended a workshop or a book study through the Orleans Niagara BOCES Teacher Center including ENL share group and *Atomic Habits* book study.
- Sherrie Tracy attended Instructional Coaching Consortium at Erie 1 BOCES.

General Updates:

- The Restorative Practices board retreat will be held at Niagara Charter School on December 9, 2023 from 9:00AM-11:00AM.
- A review of the dashboard took place
- Dr. Novak would like the board's input on a possible waitlist policy to provide Mrs. Corsaro with guidance on how many attempts should be made to contact parents of students on the waitlist.
- Three staff members will represent Niagara Charter School at the Maker's Market in the city of Niagara Falls on November 25, 2023.

Academic Committee

Mrs. Mary Scheeler

The Academic Committee had a two-part meeting on 10/16/23. The first part of our meeting was a review of the New York State assessments results. At this time the committee is only able to report an overview of scores, as the scores are not published. The handout shows NCS proficiency as compared to two districts, at this time we cannot name the districts, but we can report the positive outcomes NCS has demonstrated, and we can also report that these are the two districts NCS is traditionally compared to during charter renewal periods.

The committee reviewed current staffing at NCS. Administration noted that as our ENL population continues to grow, we now have a student who requires "stand-alone" ELL services; therefore, an English Language Learner teacher position has been posted on WNYRIC. Administration has also onboarded 2 part-time building substitutes; these staff members are on-site Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

Dr. Novak reported that the PowerSchool Parent Portal is up and running. All parents have real-time access to their child's grades and assignment scores. A few parents have remarked on checking the system and monitoring their child's progress.

The second part of the committee meeting focused on a review of the CAO evaluation. Mrs. Scheeler and Mrs. Meshulam noted the total evaluation score of 3.8/4.0.

Governance Committee

Mrs. Lesh and Mrs. Kasper met on September 19, 2023 via Zoom to review the board assessment tool results and to determine next steps. An additional meeting will be scheduled to continue this work.

Finance Committee

Mr. Ricky Scott

- There is no formal Finance Committee report

Facilities Committee

Executive Session

- A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege was made at 6:10 PM by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Scheeler. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.
- A motion to exit Executive Session was made at 6:39 PM by Mrs. Lesh and seconded by Mrs. Howe-Nalls. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

A motion for NCS legal counsel and the Facilities Committee to schedule a meeting with the Superintendent of Niagara Falls City School District to discuss transportation reimbursement was made by Mrs. Howe-Nalls and seconded by Mrs. Lesh. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM upon motion made by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Lesh. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Mary J. Scheeler

Mary J. Scheeler, Secretary