

**Niagara Charter School
Minutes of Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
February 13, 2024 at 5:00 PM**

Trustees in Attendance: James C. Muffoletto, Ricky Scott, Christina Lesh, Lynn Kasper, Lauren Howe-Nalls, Judy DiCamillo

Staff in Attendance: Jill Keicher, Theresa Boniface, Jennifer Morgante, Rebecca Armstrong, Dominique Borynski, Christie Grant

Others: Jonathan Schechter, Attorney for NCS

Excused Absence: Amy Meshulam, Christine Smith-Koziel

Unexcused Absence: Mary Scheeler

The meeting was called to order at 5:13 PM with President, James C. Muffoletto presiding.

Public Notice was confirmed.

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

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

AAO Report, Jill Keicher

Leaders of the Month: Students demonstrated Habit 3: Put First Things First for the month of January.

Crew 101-J'Quell C.; Crew 102-Harmony S.; Crew 103-Juniper B.; Crew 104-Jy'ell C.; Crew 105-Paisley M.; Crew 106-Hadi P.; Crew 107-Za'Nyiah C.; Crew 108-Any'a H.; Crew 114-Joshua S.; Crew 115-Dandre P.; Crew 116-Aaliyah C.; Crew 117-Karmello F.; Crew 118-Chance S.; Crew 119-Tahmiah P.; STEAM-Romeo M.; Music-Aubrey M.; Gym-Tracy M.; NCS support staff-Christopher K.; Mrs. Felmet-Xi S.

Chris Stoianoff, IT/Facilities Coordinator, was nominated for Employee Leader of the Month for the month of January.

CAO Report, Darci Novak

Professional Development

- Sherrie Tracy, Aimee Gonzalez, Jill Keicher and Theresa Boniface attended workshops at Erie 1 BOCES including Instructional Coaching Consortium, NYS Literacy Initiative: An Overview of the NYSED Literacy Briefs, Data in Action: Designing Structures for School Improvement and Introduction to Effective Leadership Cohort.
- Isaac Newman attended WNY Conference Day for Music Educators through the ECMEA & Erie 1 BOCES.

- Darci Novak and Jill Keicher attended the Hodgson Law Conference “Student Discipline Reform: What it Means for your District & what School Officials Need to Know about Section 504.”
- Erie 1 BOCES coordinators (Nicole Kerner, Jessica Kauffman & Elizabeth Kraemer) were at NCS for 5 days. Topics included NYS science investigations support, behavior management support and math curriculum planning.
- All NCS staff (joined by Lancaster teachers) participated in a Poverty Simulation through the Orleans Niagara BOCES Teacher Center.
- Michelle Flores from EL Education was at NCS for 1 day working with the 6th grade team to plan for passage portfolios.

General Updates:

- We are excited to announce that NCS was awarded the federal Stronger Connections Grant. We will use these funds to strengthen our work around Restorative Practices as well as supporting students' Social/Emotional needs. We were awarded the maximum allowable amount (\$628,000 over 3 years), which is more than the original proposal. The budget was updated accordingly to include additional Restorative Practices staff training and resources as well as student programs.
- Opportunities Collaborative-We are in the process of scheduling staff trainings and coaching cycles
- Tamika Morris, a student from Buffalo State University, is working on a Public Relations project at NCS. The goals of the project include increased parent relationships and organization visibility, and effectively boosting enrollment as a result of targeted communication strategies.
- We have 5 student teachers from Buffalo State University and 3 student teachers from Niagara University
- Niagara Charter School’s annual Black History Living Museum will take place on February 28-29 1:45-3:45 PM.
- The Buffalo Sabres were at NCS January 29-30 to work with grades 2-6 on hockey skills as part of the Students of the Game program.

Dashboard Review

- In the month of December, 4 students exited. 3 moved out of the area and 1 returned to district. In the month of January, 4 students exited. 2 returned to district for Special Education placements, 2 exited and returned to district.
- Mrs. Lesh asked about retention efforts and if Mrs. Corsaro is reaching out to the families of students exiting midyear.
- Mrs. Corsaro will report to the board at the March board meeting.

Governance Committee

Mrs. Christina Lesh

- Mr. Muffoletto requested that any trustees who would like to serve on committees to please contact him.
- A motion to approve the revised Code of Conduct was made by Mr. Muffoletto and seconded by Mrs. Howe-Nalls. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

- Mrs. Keicher will post the approved Code of Conduct on the school's website and share with Restorative Practices team.
- The Governance Committee will continue to have joint meetings with the Facilities Committee.
- The texts for the board book study have been ordered and will be provided to trustees when received.

Academic Committee

Mrs. Lynn Kasper

- An Academic Committee meeting is scheduled for March 14, 2024.

Finance Committee

- There was no formal finance committee meeting in January
- Mr. Scott reviewed statements for December 2023.

Facilities Committee

Executive Session

- A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege was made at 5:42 PM by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Lesh. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.
- A motion to exit Executive Session was made at 6:11 PM by Mr. Scott and seconded by Mrs. Howe-Nalls. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:11 PM upon motion made by Mrs. Howe-Nalls and seconded by Mrs. Lesh. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Mary J. Scheeler

Mary J. Scheeler, Secretary