

**Niagara Charter School
Minutes of Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
March 19, 2024 at 5:00 PM**

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

Staff in Attendance: Jill Keicher, Theresa Boniface, Jennifer Morgante, Alanna Cecala, Lillian Blatner, Christie Grant, Megan Corsaro, Jamie Guerra

Others: Jonathan Schechter, Attorney for NCS

Excused Absence: Amy Meshulam

Unexcused Absence:

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 PM with Treasurer, Ricky Scott presiding.

Public Notice was confirmed.

The agenda was approved on a motion made by Mrs. Howe-Nalls and seconded by Mrs. Scheeler.

The minutes for the regular meeting of February 13, 2024 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.

Community Liaison Report, Megan Corsaro

- Mrs. Corsaro updated the trustees on current advertising initiatives:
 - Niagara Apothecary advertisement on 30,000 prescription bags months
 - Advertisement in Challenger News in December
 - Advertisement in Niagara Gazette in December
 - NCS has partnered with SchoolMint for targeted Facebook advertisements. We have received 22 leads so far. Mrs. Corsaro is following up on each lead and tracking results.
 - Currently there are bus bench advertisements at 4 bus stops in Niagara Falls.
- Upcoming events include a Challenge Island Family Night on May 1st and the Better World Day community clean up on May 5th.
- The lottery is scheduled for April 2, 2024 at 10:30 AM. To date, we have received 40 kindergarten applications and 23 applications for grades 1-6 for the 2024-2025 school year.
- Enrollment Update:
 - Kindergarten and Grade 3 are the lowest enrolled grade levels
 - 3/9 exited students moved out of state in February.

- Mr. Scott asked how successful Mrs. Corsaro has been with reaching prospective parents on the current waitlist. It was suggested that a waitlist protocol with given timeframes be developed.
- Mrs. Kasper asked about community events that Mrs. Corsaro has attended. The Maker’s Market in Niagara Falls took place in November and Mrs. Corsaro received three emails from interested applicants. Mrs. Corsaro also contacted a representative at the Niagara Falls aquarium and NCS is able to place brochures there for advertising. Mrs. Corsaro and Mrs. Keicher are working on updating the school’s brochure.

AAO Report, Jill Keicher

Leaders of the Month: Students demonstrated Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood for the month of February.

Crew 101-D’Ava G.; Crew 102-Mendeecee S.; Crew 103-Tracy M.; Crew 104-Aubrey M.; Crew 105-Legacy G.; Crew 106-DaRiana M.; Crew 107-Kamari B.; Crew 108-Alannah S.; Crew 114-Deasia S.; Crew 115-Nyla R.; Crew 116-Jrel J.; Crew 117-Sebastian M.; Crew 118-Kay’Dan L.; Crew 119-Aubree H.; STEAM-Elsiana M.; Music-De’Shiyah B.; Gym-Osias W.; NCS support staff-LahVaya T.; Mrs. Felmet-Vincent G.

Linnea DuFour, Special Education Coordinator, was nominated for Employee Leader of the Month for the month of February.

CAO Report, Jill Keicher

Professional Development

- Theresa Boniface and Jennifer Morgante attended PD through Erie 1 BOCES including “Introduction to Effective Leadership Cohort” and “Needs of Children with Autism.”
- Linnea DuFour & Aimee Gonzalez attended PD through NWEA including “Informing Instruction-Responsive Planning,” and “Covid Learning Loss and Impactful ways to make gains.”
- Megan Ackerman attended “Dealing Effectively with Disruptive Students: Practical Proven Techniques.”
- Andrea Hopkins attended “Increasing Student Voice in Education Settings” through Orleans Niagara BOCES Teacher Center
- Linnea DuFour attended “Supporting Students with ASD: A Series for School Personnel and Parents.”
- Erie 1 BOCES coordinators Nicole Kerner & Elizabeth Kraemer were at NCS for 3 days for Math and behavior management support.
- Michelle Flores from EL Education was at NCS for one day conducting EL Education’s Mid-year review.

General Updates:

- Mrs. Keicher updated the trustees on the Stronger Connections Grant. As part of the grant, NCS contracted with Erie 1 BOCES for a Behavior Specialist, Nicole Gugliuzza. Mrs. Keicher and Mrs. Tracy met with Nicole and her supervisor on March 19, 2024. We discussed school-wide needs, scheduling, and upcoming restorative practices professional development opportunities.

Nicole will be at NCS for a total of 140 days-53 days this year and the remainder of the days in the 24-25 school year. Her first day is April 9, 2024.

- Susan Gibbons is in the process of scheduling a midterm site visit for this spring.
- All NCS students will receive solar eclipse glasses to go home before break. Lessons about the eclipse were taught in Ms. Zsebehazy's STEAM classes.
- Mrs. Keicher distributed the Niagara Gazette article featuring our annual Black History Living Museum.
- NCS held an Apex Leadership Fundraiser that included character lessons for 2 weeks, and ended with a remix glow party fitness event. NCS raised \$3,600 in school profit! We are in the process of looking for a mobile stage for the gym.

Governance Committee

Mrs. Christina Lesh

- There was no formal governance committee meeting this month.

Academic Committee

Mrs. Lynn Kasper

- Mrs. Kasper and Mrs. Keicher met on March 14, 2024.
- March 15th is Aimee Gonzalez's last day of work. Mrs. Keicher and Mrs. Tracy will take over for NYS testing.
 - NYS ELA Assessment dates are April 10th for 6th graders, April 16th for 3rd graders, and April 23rd for 4th graders.
 - NYS Math Assessment dates are April 30th and May 2st for 3rd graders, May 2ⁿ 5th graders, May 7th and 8th 4th graders, May 8th & 9th for 6th graders.
 - NYS Science Assessment dates are: May 14th & 15th for 5th graders.
- Mrs. Kasper volunteered to email the trustees about upcoming dates for activities at the school for possible representation of the board at the meetings.
- There was also discussion about getting the trustees and staff more connected. We are looking for suggestions from trustees. We discussed resuming presentations at the BOT meetings by staff members. A survey will be conducted to see what staff would appreciate. Teacher Appreciation Week is coming up the week of May 6th.
- The academic committee will meet the week of April 9-12.

Finance Committee

- There was no formal finance committee meeting in February.
- There was an increase in Health Insurance premiums.

Facilities Committee

Executive Session

- A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of attorney-client privilege was made at 5:58 PM by Mr. Muffoletto and seconded by Mrs. Smith-Koziel. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions
- A motion to exit Executive Session was made at 6:22 PM by Mrs. Howe-Nalls and seconded by Mrs. Scheeler. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22 PM upon motion made by Mrs. Howe-Nalls and seconded by Mrs. Scheeler. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Mary J. Scheeler

Mary J. Scheeler, Secretary