

**Niagara Charter School
Minutes of Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
February 25, 2025 at 5:00 PM**

Trustees in Attendance: Amy Meshulam, Mary Scheeler, Christina Lesh, Ricky Scott

Trustees Attending via Zoom: James Muffoletto, Judy DiCamillo

Staff in Attendance: Dr. Darci Novak, Jill Keicher, Aimee Gonzalez, Rebecca Armstrong, Theresa Boniface, Alex Filips, Kelsey Barnes, Andrea Hopkins

Others: Jonathan Schechter, Attorney for NCS, Shawniece Baillie

Excused Absence: Lynn Kasper

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 as amended on a motion made by Mrs. Lesh and seconded by Mr. Scott.

The minutes for the regular meeting of January 21, 2025 were approved on a motion made by Mrs. Meshulam and seconded by Mrs. Scheeler. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Leaders of the Month: Students demonstrated Habit 4: Think Win-Win during the month of January.

Crew 101-Kallie O.; Crew 102-Ghyari T.; Crew 103-Kobe J.; Crew 104-Aysha H.; Crew 105-Keion M.; Crew 106-My'Lajah H.; Crew 107-Tamar B.; Crew 108-Shu'lease T.; Crew 114-Jaxson M.; Crew 115-Zyionna M.; Crew 116-Serenity S.; Crew 117-Josiah B.; Crew 118-Neveah S.; Crew 119-Anthony W.; Art-Taseefa R.; Music-DaRiana M.; Gym-Eric J.; NCS support staff-Ayomide O.; Mrs. Felmet-Tracy M.

Employee Leader of the Month

Nicole Gugliuzza, Erie 1 BOCES Behavior Specialist, was nominated for Employee Leader of the Month for the month of January.

Governance Committee

Mrs. Christina Lesh

- Shawniece Baillie introduced herself as a candidate for the parent trustee
- A motion to nominate Shawniece Baillie for Parent Trustee was made by Mr. Muffoletto, seconded by Mrs. Meshulam. The motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

The Board of Trustees, has voted to select Shawniece L. Baillie as a member to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on June 30, 2025, pending:

1. Approval by NYSED.
2. Review of a thorough criminal history check via fingerprinting deemed acceptable by NYSED, and discovering no State or federal criminal history, or having provided information regarding such history to NYSED, if found, and Having verified that any academic and/or professional credential or qualification presented by the proposed member is genuine and having reviewed the application in its entirety.

The above resolution approving Shawniece L. Baillie is adopted upon NYSED's approval.

CAO Report, Dr. Darci Novak

Professional Development

- Erie 1 BOCES coordinators (Elizabeth Kraemer, Nicole Kerner, Brian Blaszak) were at NCS for 4 days including behavior management support, Math curriculum planning and coaching, and technology integration.
- Michelle Flores from EL Education was at NCS for 1 day supporting instructional staff with EL curriculum and High-Quality Work.
- The Leadership Program (through the Stronger Connections Grant) provided a leadership training program course for grades 4-6.
- ESC held a ½ day staff training on Emotional Intelligence.
- The Niagara County Sheriff's office trained any NCS staff in CPR & AED that have not been trained. All NCS staff are now all certified in CPR & AED.

General Updates:

- Our Black History Month Living Museum is February 27, 2025 from 1:45 pm-3:45 pm.
- Our Leader in Me Carnival and Exhibition Night and book fair is March 6, 2025 from 5:30 pm-7:30 pm.
- We have begun working with Kirsits and Associates to draft a budget for the 25-26 school year.
- A review of the dashboard took place.
 - Current enrollment is 333
 - We have received 20 kindergarten applications for next year
 - Mrs. Corsaro, Community Liaison, will present at the next Governance Committee meeting as well as the April Board of Trustees' meeting.

Academic Committee

Mrs. Amy Meshulam

- The Academic Committee met on February 12th
- A mental health counselor, Sheila Alati, was hired.
- ESC conducted a staff engagement survey to assess the level of engagement, satisfaction, and overall sentiment of staff. The findings will be presented to staff and then a teacher focus group, led by ESC, will expand on ideas and suggestions.
- We continue to work with Amergis staffing for building-based substitute teachers.
- Mrs. Keicher will invite new staff to attend a board meeting to meet the trustees.
- The Special Education Coordinator/Teacher resigned. The position was filled internally.
- The next Academic Committee meeting will be March 18th at 4:15 PM.

Finance Committee

Mr. Ricky Scott

- The Finance Committee reviewed January 2025 financial statements.
- There is no formal Finance Committee report.
- March financial statements will be reviewed at the April board meeting.

Facilities Committee

- A motion to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of attorney client privilege was made at 6:07 PM by Mr. Muffoletto and seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.
- A motion to exit Executive Session was made at 6:12 PM by Ms. Muffoletto and seconded by Mrs. Meshulam. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 PM upon motion made by Mrs. Scheeler and seconded by Mr. Scott. The motion was passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Mary J. Scheeler

Mary J. Scheeler, Secretary