

## **New Horizons Board Meeting**

*September 25, 2018*

*Present – Stuart Cano (Board), Stefan Rinka,, David Sams, Dr. Duran, Dr. Castaneda, Richard Thomas,*

*Others Present: Bea Italia, Doreen Cohen, Mrs. Guevarra, Spencer Styles, Geetha Huma, & Jannet Curiel*

*Meeting Commenced at: 04:00 PM*

### **Public Comment**

Mrs. Guevarra (parent) – I feel there was miscommunication at the school over the investigation of my daughter. I reported this information via e-mail, in-person, and by phone. I had the school investigate and they say they never found anything. I discussed this with Mrs. Scottie and there was little to nothing done, that is why I am here today.

Doreen Cohen (teacher) - I cannot discuss what was done last year, I can say that we are following a sound protocol for both behavior and instruction, and we have seen academic progress even in our limited time in school. We are also in the middle of the process for conducting an IEP, but I feel that she is a happy student, making friends and working well with her classmates. I look forward to working with her and seeing what we can do to advance her success this year.

### ***Approval of the Previous Board Meeting Minutes (August)***

- Motion made to approve – Stuart Cano
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries (5 votes) 5-0

### **Student / Staff Boundaries Action Policy**

#### **Unacceptable Behaviors**

Giving personal gifts to students, kissing, any form of sexual conduct, sitting on the lap (grades 3 and above), taking photographs or videos and posting on-line.

#### **Acceptable Behaviors**

Patting a student on the back, high-fives, keeping parents informed on appropriate behaviors

Dr. Castaneda – I would like to complement you for being proactive and bring this forward, to share with teacher's where the line is, so there is no ambiguity what is accepted on campus.

Stuart Cano – If you are not bound as a Charter School, why are you bringing this forward at this time?

Richard Thomas – We try to emulate LAUSD in these matters, because we fall under their oversight, so we consider adopting policies that bring distinct clarity for our schools on these issues.

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Castaneda
- Second – Stuart Cano
- Motion Carries (5 votes) 5-0

### **Monthly Financial Report**

**Spencer Styles Charter Impact** – We are pleased to introduce an edition to our team, please welcome Mrs. Geetha Huma who will now be handling your account.

Our current ADA is at 285, we are considering ending the year with a surplus of \$82,000. We project to end the year with \$100,000 with the clean energy fund. We project an ending fund balance of \$789,000, which is six times above what the state demands you have. There will be a 3.7% cost of living allowance.

Richard Thomas – We have had some families move and when they do, we lose up to three students at one time. We also had some students attend a new magnet nearby, and we even had some of them return. Many other charter schools have shared that they are down in their attendance numbers by as much as 20%. We are at the same enrollment as last year, up ten students more than last year.

#### ***Approval of the August Financials***

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Castaneda
- Second – Stuart Cano
- Motion Carries (5 votes) 5-0

#### ***Discussion and Review of Unaudited Actuals of 2017/2018 and Approval***

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Castaneda
- Second – Stuart Cano
- Motion Carries (5 votes) 5-0

### **Executive Report**

**Academic Report** - We rank this year at an 8, only 23% of school qualified at that mark. This shows significantly how much higher we are on criteria that involve reclassification, as well as test scores. I have had many charter school leaders ask me how we made these gains. I attribute this to our incredible teaching staff, as well as our teaching model. Our growth in math is also notable, especially in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade band. We are significantly out-scoring the local schools around us. We handed out T-shirts to all of our students that moved up a full performance band, we can share that we had to buy a load of T-shirts.

**Expansion Grant (\$50,000)** - We would like to share that we are writing a grant that would expand our program to encompass high school instruction for grades 9-12. I would like to inform the Board that we are expanding our school to include a high school, based on the surveys with parents and discussions with the Board. The grant would allow us to hire a consultant to write the (500 page) document, as well as for future recruitment, which would begin as soon as 2021.

Dr. Castaneda – I welcome the grant, but I have reservations, having a strong elementary and high school does not mean that you can also have a strong high school, this being said, I would like to be very much involved in the process. Will the Board be involved with who the future consultant will be?

Mr. Thomas – Yes. And I agree, it is much easier to run a high school than it is to run an elementary school. This is a different system, one with A-G requirements, one that I am very familiar with.

Dr. Castaneda – I have some background in this work and would like to share that it is a joy to be part in, high schools are much easier to construct versus the elementary school.

**Closed Session Vote**

*Meeting adjourned at 5:34PM*