

## **New Horizons Charter Academy**

### **Board Meeting**

*November 27, 2018*

CALL TO ORDER: Roll-Call

*Present – Stefan Rinka, Dr. Castaneda, Dr. Duran, David Sams and Richard Thomas (ED)*

*Others Present: Sandy Mejia, Guillermo Gomez, Mrs. Mejia, Geetha Huma, & Karen De Leon*

*Meeting Commenced at: 04:07PM*

**Public Comment – None.**

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

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Duran
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries (4-0 votes)

#### **Monthly Financial Report**

**Charter Impact (Geetha Huma)** – The monthly financials for October demonstrate an increase in ADA. The revenue is forecasted at \$3.9 million, with expenses lower than budget. There will be a cash surplus of \$79,000 for the year. Both the ADA and enrollment are going up.

There is an additional block grant of \$8,000 that allows students to qualify for this additional funding, there are actually, (4) students that help you qualify for these revenues.

The overall expenses have only a modest increase from the purchase of school uniforms, you had originally allocated \$8,000 and this did go up to \$20,000.

Your fund balance is \$786,000, so you actually have 20% there, which is much higher than most schools.

#### ***Approval of the October Financials***

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Duran
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries (4-0 votes)

**Charter Impact (Geetha Huma)** – The First Interim Report was presented to Board which outlines budget versus actuals to date. Summary and then detailed accounts outlined in the Interim Report. Board found no issues with Interim Report as they review the monthly financials at each Board Meeting and approved the Original Budget. The Board found no exceptions with Interim Report.

#### ***Approval of the First Interim Report – November 27, 2018***

- Motion made to approve 1<sup>st</sup> Interim Report Dated November 27, 2018 – Dr. Duran
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries (4-0 votes)

## Executive Report

**Data** – “We were given the challenge to raise our mathematics scores to meet or exceed the District’s average scores. We did so by raising our elementary scores in mathematics by 20%. Our Middle school was also able to exceed their mark, showing similar gains in ELA. We categorize our scoring in three categories, so we compare our school to similar schools within the same span range. The Dashboard will help clarify that.”

**Dashboard** – “We are able to show growth via the state Dashboard, which allows some level of transparency to be applied in all three areas. When we look at our sub-groups, we have clearly showed gains in all three areas we have indicated. If you look at the gains in math, our school showed significant increases across many sub-groups.”

**Dr. Castaneda** – “Did our English Learners decrease in their scores?”

**Mr. Thomas** – “Well, many of these students did not begin with us, so we are looking at 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders that came to us struggling from their previous schools. I’m going to let Mrs. Mejia address this.”

**Sandy Mejia** – “Many of our students are looking at the test without any real background in connecting the academic language the necessary to take the test, nor the subtlety to access the shades of meaning that require expansive vocabulary to reach instructional expectations for their grade level.”

**Dr. Duran** – “I think that through much study, we are seeing that much of the test is based on Inquiry. It is a different way of learning by asking questions to construct meaning. We went to a conference where a wide variety of inquiry techniques were shared with us.”

**Mr. Gomez** – “Growth is measured in different ways. We have an expansive Reading Intervention program in place, at both schools, but Mr. Thomas is right, there are students who arrive to us who have been struggling for years in several schools, they may have started down the road to be identified for SPED services, at their last site, but did not stay long enough to qualify for services. This means some of our students bring down our overall scores across several categories.”

**Dr. Duran** – “Richard, can these students take their computers home?”

**Mr. Thomas** – “No, we cannot monitor our technology from a distance, even though we make their curriculum available 24/7. What we can say, is that we also we have parents who also do not always speak a great deal of English at home, so the actual student exposure to English, only happens at school.”

**Private Site Tk-6th Suicide Prevention Policy** – “This has many of the same systems, training components and tools/documents used for our co-location site at Fair Ave for our secondary students, but there are some subtle changes that we need to include in our policy are

- **Training Responsibilities** – NHCA outlined the Frequency of Trainings, Content and which staff would be trained. NHCA has conducted this training during the week prior to school opening. All of our staff were trained, and any staff hired after the initial training will receive equivalent training to give them the same level of background.
- **Intervention** – This policy includes prevention, intervention and postvention to support all students at NHCA. The Intervention Component was added.
- There are specific parameters when to travel with students to the hospital, if their parents cannot be reached. Our response is predicated on the personnel we have, and when the event takes place on school grounds and direction by local law enforcement and student wishes.
- We also clearly define our most high-risk groups, so we are aware of students who would be more at-risk, as defined by certain sub-categories.”

Dr. Castaneda – “We do not have a full-time PPS counselor do we?”

Mr. Thomas – “We do not have a full-time counselor, but we do have visitations once a week, from Direct Ed counselor who holds a PPS credential and who provides DIS counseling for our special needs students and informal counseling as needed for at-risk students. We do provide additional informal counseling by Mrs. Howard once a week, so we have two counselors for 300 kids, serving both school sites. We provide both individual and group counseling to support our anti-bullying and restorative justice campaigns, so I will put our services and supports to par with any school, given our resources.

***Approval of the Tk-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Suicide Prevention, Intervention and Postvention Policies***

- Motion made to approve changes to current policy – Dr. Duran
- Second – Dr. Castaneda
- Motion Carries (4-0 votes) Policy Amended

***Enrollment Preferences Requirements***

*Duran – “I have a question, do we need permission to have students come to us from another school?”*

*Mr. Thomas – “No, we do not have to receive permission, we can receive students from any school, we are only required to share what school they came from in our records.”*

*NHCA needs to make this enrollment preference change based on the Free-Reduced Lunch percentage was reported as 54.8% via CALPADS and prompted CSFA to request the change to be eligible for SB740 for our school. The enrollment preferences are outlined in the Board Resolution.*

***Approval of the Board Resolution to change Enrollment Preferences within Element 8 of Charter Petition***

- Motion made to approve changes to Enrollment Preferences – Dr. Duran
- Second – Dr. Castaneda

Motion Carries (4-0 votes)

*Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM*