

New Horizons Board Meeting Minutes

June 5, 2020

Present – Richard Thomas, Stuart Cano, David Sams, Stephen Rinka, Guillermo Gomez, Sandy Mejia, Bea Italia, Katie Liechti, Jannet Curiel, Yvette Steinorth, Cindy Tanaka, Mallory Schneider, Jesica Kahng, Katie Liechti, Karen Reyes, William Coman, Geetha Huma, Michelle Menjivar, Arlith Howard, Xiomara Medrano, Yvette Steinorth, Mallory Schneider, Cynthia Tanaka (42) Participants – Zoom Conference

Meeting Commenced at: 11:37 AM

Public Comment:

Yvette Steinorth (teacher) – “We just want to make sure we have full transparency, so that we information is shared with staff. We all need to make plans as a staff, with how you plan to re-open the school, I know we are having troubles with LAUSD, as they own that property. I suppose my questions will be answered as we go. That’s it.”

Cynthia Tanaka (teacher) – “My name is Cyndy Tanaka and I have taught 4th grade here for several years. We teachers have been providing distant learning for the last few months. We teachers have been applying ourselves to distant learning and we have been doing our best. We would like to discuss with parents the need for their children to fully participate in distance learning. As teachers we would like input into to what the new year will look like at our school.”

Karen Guevarra (parent) – “How is it going to be next year, with this situation. In Zoom class, some kids are not signing in, are you trying to find out where they are? There are also times where parents are interrupting lessons, that should not happen. There should also be graduation being done for students. I understand the need for safety, but many schools are doing something, and we should follow their lead.”

Mr. Thomas – “We are following the guidelines set in part by LACOE and the Department of Health. We are having a culmination for 5th and 8th grade; we just will not be allowed to meet. We are also having assemblies for Lankershim and Fair Avenue, where we will say our goodbyes and wish kids a good summer. These are the guidelines coming to us from the Department of Health.”

Action Items

Review of Board Minutes

Stephen Rinka - Page (3) Should have \$469 thousand.

Richard Thomas – We will make that change

Approval of Board Minutes April

- Motion made to approve – Stuart Cano
- Second – Stephen Rinka
- Motion Carries (3 votes)

Information Item - E-Rate Consulting Renewal Proposal for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 from Learning.org

Richard Thomas – “We were able to triple our internet speed from Spectrum, while contracting at the same rate, a win, win for us.”

Approval of a Reduction in Force Policy

Richard Thomas – “This is dependent on our grade level, not the overall numbers. We have applications from students that are intending to enroll, but they may not actually arrive. If state and federal funding is not maintained, we might lose some of our teaching assistants, as well as other personnel. Smaller class sizes will be reviewed by grade level. If students come to school, we may not have this problem.”

David Sams – “How many students are we projecting to have for this year?”

Richard Thomas – “We are projected at 290, only a three-student difference, but parents may decide to home school and we could lose even more enrollment, there many unknowns here.”

Motion to Approve

- Motion made to approve – Stuart Cano
- Second – Stephen Rinka
- Motion Carries (3 votes)

Discussion Items / Information

- Recommendation to receive and file LAUSD Annual Performance-Based Oversight Reports for 2019-2020 School Year.
- Recommendation to approve notice to authorizing district, LAUSD to reserve the right of New Horizons Charter Academy to leave LAUSD SELPA.
- The option to exit the SELPA, for the following school year.

Financial Report

April 2020 Financial Highlights (Geetha Huma, Charter Impact)

Under Executive Order N=26-20 & SB 117, school funding will continue with the following considerations,

- Revenue forecasted - \$3.9 MM, no significant change
- Expenses – forecasted at \$3.7MM, increases in April were due to special education and a shift in personnel expenses due to school closures. There were also expenses that trickled in from February and March. Your IT expenses did rise, due your purchase of Google Programs that you will be utilizing in the Fall. Mr. Lanehart has contributed greatly to producing this product, thank you Chris.
- Surplus forecasted at \$155K and cash projected at \$598K at fiscal year-end, including Prop 39 repayment and PPP loan approval.

Attendance

- P2 ADA 273.13, slightly lower than P1 ADA at 273.85. The attendance rate is 93.7%, higher than forecasted at 92.9%.

Fund Balance

- Surplus forecasted \$155K for FY19-20
- Ending fund balance projected at \$648K (17.4% of expenses)

Cash Balance

- Cash balance is at \$427K at the end of April 2020. Cash balance forecasted at \$598K.

Approval of April 2020 Financials

- Motion made to approval – David Sams
- Second – Stephen Rinka
- Motion Carries (3 votes)

Approval of Preliminary 2020-2021 Budget Notes

Portions of funding may get deferred. There will be a reduction in STRS contributions. Some decreases in school expenses. The school will take a full 10% cut. Insurance premiums will go out by 40% due to fires and the Pandemic. Next year we do not anticipate the added substitute expenses, you will need less of them. Overall, you are looking at a decrease of \$320,000 dollars, this is based on an enrollment of 290. Your budgeted cash amount is still at a positive level.

David Sams – “Does the cash balance include the PPP loan?”

Geetha - “No, it does not, you would have to approve this.”

David Sams – “I see that teachers’ salaries would go down by 10%, is that correct?”

Richard Thomas – “Yes, we will also have less contribution to STRS. There is a reduction of the rent, which will reflect the less classrooms that we are utilizing at Fair.”

David Sams – “Have we talked about the reduction of salary to staff?”

Richard Thomas – “The teacher salaries are not going down by 10%, their salary schedules will still stay intact.”

Geetha Geetha – “The Stem Coordinator position is being merged with another position, so this consolidates salaries.”

Motion to Approve the budget for the 2020-2021 school year

Stephen Rinka – This is based on our current enrollment numbers, correct?”

Richard Thomas – “That is correct.”

Approval of 2020-2021 Budget

- Motion made to approval - Cano

- Second – Stephen Rinka
- Motion Carries (3 votes)

Executive Report

COVID 19 Updates Regarding Reopening Framework for 2020=2021

Items for consideration

- We may still face a possible closure in November – January
- We need to work with teachers, review best practices, discuss with parents, and focus on best health practices for our facility
- I will be sending out a Parent Survey to discuss these issues
- We may return to Early Bird / Late Bird Schedules, to decrease class sizes
- Instructional minutes – Our day may go from 8:00-12:00 or 1:00 – 3:30, we do not know yet.
- We will share a draft of our school plans by the end of June
- We will have a final school plan to share in July
- All plans are contingent on our Federal, State, County, and District mandates

David Sams – “There will be a cost for all of these scenarios, I did not see the increase in our budget.”

Richard Thomas – We did increase our cleaning cost; we will focus on the best plans that we can share by the end of the summer. We are trying to start on August 10th, but we may push back our calendar for reopening, the District probably will as well.”

School Data Performance Updates

Fair Avenue – Our current ELA and Mathematics scores outperform Roy Romer’s scores for the same age groups. Our NHCA ELA scores for grades 5-8 are at 48.71% compared to Roy Romer’s scores at 27.8%. In Mathematics, NHCA scores 38.46% and Roy Romer scores 19.01%, so as you can see, we believe parents by the right choice by choosing our school.

Language Reclassification

The NHCA reclassification for English Learners is 42.50%, with the LAUSD District reclassification rate being 19.01%, a reclassification difference of 22.49%, which is a tribute to our teaching staff.

We are proud of the gains our school has made in the past year and our proud to place of the teachers, students and parents who made it possible. We believe again, you made the right choice in sending your students to our schools.

Oversight Visit

We are also looking forward to hearing the results from our LAUSD Oversight visit. This District visit rates our performance in Governance, Fiscal, Academics and Operations. In the past, we have scores a (4) on a scale of 1-4 several categories, virtually unheard of, and we plan to maintain our exemplary record with an even better review this year.

Suspensions - There was only one given in the past year, due to our school environment, no bullying policy, our school is a safe place, kids get along very well. At both our K-8 schools. Ms. Mejia runs a tight

ship at Fair Avenue and Mr. Gomez does the same at our Lankershim Campus. We also benefit from a strong Counselor who serves both school sites.

Co-Location News / Facility Changes – We will be utilizing (10) classrooms at Fair Avenue, not (14) classrooms as we have in the past. We will notify parents if we must maximize our student populations at the school sites. Right now, we have 5th-8th at Fair Avenue, but based on conflicts in enrollment, we plan to keep (10) classroom there at this time.

All Zoom Meeting

Assemblies - There will be assemblies for both sites.

- Lankershim Campus - June 8th 2:00
- Fair Avenue – June 9th at 2:00

Graduation Ceremonies

- Kindergarten – June 10th, 1:00
- 5th Grade – June 10th, 11:00
- 8th Grade – June 10th, 4:00

Mr. Thomas – “We will be having a meeting next week with our teachers regarding our Distance Learning schedules.

Thank you for participating today.

Meeting concludes at 1:07