

New Horizons Charter Academy

Board Meeting

September 29, 2020

Present – David Sams-Chair, Dr. Duran, Stephan Rinka, Richard Thomas-ED,

Not Present – Dr. Castaneda

Sandy Mejia, Guillermo Gomez, Geetha Huma, Bea Italia, Yvette Steinorth, Cindy Tanaka, Karen Guevara, Xiomara Medrano

Meeting Commenced at :4:20 PM

Public Comments:

Karen Guevara (Parent) – I would like to know the process that the school will be sharing for re-opening! We do not hear much about this and there is little communication about when our kids will be returning to school. I feel there is also little to no opportunity to learn about all the challenges our kids are having trying to adjust to on-line learning and lots of other things.

Sandy Mejia (Site Administrator) – I would like to take this opportunity to share that there are several programs we have that can really help get families through this difficult time. We have counseling opportunities with Ms. Scottie as well her wellness sessions that we encourage all families to attend. We would also direct families to review our school website for weekly updates on current events.

Items for Action

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes (August 2020 Board Meeting)

Dr. Duran – “These notes are too literal. Can we have them merely sum up our language and request that minutes not be written verbatim? A spell check on this document, would also be nice.”

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Duran
- Second – David Sams
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes Yes)

Monthly Financial Report

July - August 2020 Financials (Geetha Huma)

1. Average Daily Attendance - The average ADA is 272.12, capped at FY19-20 P2.
 - a. SB 820 allows for limited growth in ADA as of October (275).
2. Revenue - is forecasted at \$4.0MM, overall higher than your original budge, due to the reinstatement of Local Control Funding Formula funds (LCFF) and Learning Loss Mitigation Funds (LLMF).
 - a. Offset by other state revenue, mainly SB740 (funded at 90% and ADA adjustments).
3. Expenditures – Total expenses are forecasted at \$3.8M, overall, more than original due to the LLMF expenses to books and school supplies - \$340K
4. Fund Balance - Surplus is forecasted at \$213K with an ending fund balance of \$680K, 18.1% of total expenses (recommended minimum of 15%)

5. Cash Balance – as of August, you have \$841K and are projected at \$823K, including deferral financing @ 6% interest rate, Mr. Thomas will discuss this in more detail later.

Geetha Thomas – “I will let you review the Check Register, please let me know if you have any questions. There were some subscriptions, like Brain-Pop and other essential teaching supplies.”

Approval of July - August Financials (Geetha Huma)

- Motion made to approve –Dr. Duran
- Second – David Sams
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes Yes)

Education Protection Account (EPA) Final Expenditures (Geetha Huma) – The budget looks at the \$57,000 budget and the actual expenses, which to \$54,426 put+ toward teachers’ salaries.

- Motion made to approve –Dr. Duran
- Second – David Sams
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes Yes)

Applications for CSFA and Revenue Anticipation Note RAN (Geetha Huma) – “The Revenue Anticipation Program is like a bond, which in this case is your LCFF funding. From March until June you would need to pay your bills, but once the state pays your funding in July-November, it would be repaid. Once the state receives their money, the bills are repaid. The pricing will happen, later. The RAN application is not open yet, but you can opt out if you change your mind.

This comparison being shared with you by Mr. Thomas allows you to view the advantages of a note that will help you pay your bills in advance, the actual money will be repaid when the state returns your monies early next year. Actual pricing will be shared later, a side by side comparison is shared below.”

State Deferral Financing Program	Comparisons	CSFA – Advances in State Aid Payments (ASAP)
Stifel	Note Underwriter	RBC
CAM	Factoring Partner	None
Late Feb. 2021 March 2021 April 2021 or later (tbd)	<u>Closing Date</u> <u>1st series of RANS</u> <u>2ND Series of RANS</u> <u>Add” I Series of RANS</u>	March 202e May or June 2021
Dec. 31, 2020	Applicable Deadline	Jan. 2022
Jan 2022	RAN Maturity	Jan. 2022
Yes - Nov. 2021 @ no penalty	Early Payment	-
2.50% - 3.50% 1.50% - 2.5%	<u>Interest Rate Options</u> Taxable (credit enhancement) Taxable (credit enhancement) Tax Exempt (not credit enhanced)	1.50% - 2.00% 2.50% - 3.50% -
Tax-Exempt or Taxable	Tax Status	Taxable
2%-3% for all borrowers, depending on size/credit	Issuance Cost	5% - 1% size independent 5% if <\$250K 5% to 1% if %250K - \$5M 1% if > \$5M

96.5%	Hypothetical Pricing for \$1M Deferral	96%
-------	--	-----

Mr. Thomas – “I say we apply for the ASAP and we can opt-out if we choose, and apply for the STiFL as well, which has no pre-payment penalty. I would say that we apply for all three loans, and then we can exercise the opt-out for one of the three.”

Vote for the RAN and STiFL Application

- Motion made to approve –David Sams
- Second – Dr. Duran
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes Yes)

Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan 2021 / Reopening Framework (Richard Thomas) – “These are a series of questions about the impact of Covid-19 on our students and teachers. We started our distance-learning program in August. We included our demographics and support for our families especially *Wellness Wednesdays* to help our parents get through this difficult time.

We have conducted parent surveys, where we asked about parent concerns, what models’ parents would participate in. We shared the readiness of our staff and classroom/building maintenance to prepare for the return of students.

We are still adding software and ramping up our ability to serve our kids. We have an order in for (300) laptops to replace many of our devices that are damaged from distribution. There are other sections here with how we utilize our aides as well as our professional development.

We also discuss how staff has expanded their roles, as we utilize all our staff to serve as technicians to support our kids. The next budget is also included in this, one that shares all the items we are sharing with families to minimize the Learning Loss on our kids. We include assessments; DIBELS, NWEA and our school Benchmarks that are used to improve school instruction.

We have added Google Classroom to help teachers manage their instruction. We have in this plan, how we will open-up in three phases.

- Phase 1 – “Will allow us to have English Learners and Special Education students to come to campus, one day per week, it is our pre-hybrid model. We can support having 10% of those students on campus.”
- Phase 2 – “Will permit us to have 50% of our students on campus on Mondays & Wednesdays and 50% of our kids on campus on Tuesdays & Thursdays.”
- Phase 3 – “Will provide us with full student participation, 100% of kids back on campus, but we will be taking their temperatures upon arrival, as well as having floor signs, mobile fountains, as well as the storage of furniture, so we can fit all of our kids on campus.”

Our co-location site is not being discussed here, because LAUSD has its own rules and protocols, so this is what we can do our private site.

We will also be adding time for our Counselor. Possible future funding to lower our special education hours, as well as future Saturday School support, when we can open up again in the future.”

Dr. Duran – “I remember you sharing that you were looking for someone to help you with truancy, I would like for you to change the language from that position term from **truancy to attendance**, a term that is much more agreeable.”

Learning Continuity and Attendance Plan 20/21

- Motion made to approve – Dr. Duran
- Second – David Sams
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes Yes)

David Sams – “Mr. Thomas, that was a great report. I get exhausted listening to that, but I know your putting in a lot of work and I know the parents need to hear about this work, that you and your staff are doing, on a daily basis.”

Richard Thomas – “Well, this is a year like no other, so it is a team effort. The administrators, staff and teachers are committed to make this work, using all our resources.”

Application for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loan (Richard Thomas) – “This loan is important because it can offset many of the other loans that we are applying for. This loan is straight forward, because it is a low interest rate loan, much lower than the other loans we would be applying for. If the Board is okay with this item, we will move forward with this loan as well.”

- Motion made to approve –Dr. Duran
- Second – David Sams
- Motion Carries (3-0 Yes votes)

Special Education Self-Review Checklist (Richard Thomas) – This is a review of the checklist we utilize to inform parents how we conduct IEP meetings for Special Education. This discusses how we follow state guidelines. This year, we will have a DVR review and we will be sharing that with you later as well. This has been submitted to the District.

Executive Report

We would like to share a few brief topics to share with you about the school

- We will be beginning NWEA testing this week and will repeat this testing cycle two additional cycles this year.
- We have been distributing devices in preparation for this event, (150) distributed to date, with another (50) devices available for student distribution.

Covid 19 Updates - We wish we had more to share about our future opening because we truly miss your kids, our teachers miss being with your kids, but we have nothing to share at this time, but will share updates with parents, as they are shared with us by the Governor.

Closed Session Report

Co-Location Mitigation of Overallocation Penalties (Richard Thomas)

1. District Mediation / Over allocation of classrooms -The Board voted to move for NHCA to enter mediation over this dispute.
2. Under allocation of administrative space and special education space – We are seeking a dispute mediation for the same range of years, which will take place later as well.
3. The third item is a review of the current school year, where we were offered exclusive use space, space we cannot use at this time, so we will be requesting a reduction of cost for this space for this calendar year.

Richard Thomas – “This was discussed by the Board in closed session, so we will now vote in open session to shared this information with the public.”

Motion to Approve these three items

- Motion made to approve –Dr. Duran
- Second – David Sams
- Motion Carries (3-0 votes Yes)

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM

Next Board Meeting – October 26, 2020