

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Location: New Dawn Charter High School, 242 Hoyt Street, Brooklyn, New York 11217

Zoom Meeting

Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2021

Time: 1:30 P.M.

Board Members Present: Mr. Ronald Tabano, Chairperson, Ms. Jane Sun, Board Member, Ms. Katharine Urbati, Treasurer, Mr. Brian Baer, Board Member, Mr. Amit Bahl, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Mr. Jonathon Carrington, Board Member.

Staff Members/ Visitors Present: Dr. Sara Asmussen, Executive Director, NDCS, Mr. Jose Obregon, Director of Student Support & Operations, NDCS, Mr. Steve Ramkissoon, Director of Finance & HR, NDCS, Ms. Donna Lobato, Principal NDCHS, Mr. Zach Flory, Principal NDCHS II, Dr. Lisa DiGaudio, Curriculum Specialist, NDCS; Ms. Nazli Askin, Data Specialist, NDCS.

Mr. Tabano, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 1:30 P.M. He then asked if everyone had a chance to look at the May 25, 2021, Board Minutes, the June 2021 Executive Committee minutes, and the June 10, 2021, Finance Committee minutes. All board members present acknowledged that they did. Mr. Tabano then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

I. Minutes

a. Resolution: May 25, 2021, Board Minutes

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to approve the May 25, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the May 25, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

b. Resolution: June 8, 2021, Executive Committee Minutes

Motion: Mr. Amit Bahl motioned to approve the June 8, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting minutes.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the June 8, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting minutes.



c. Resolution: June 10, 2021, Finance Committee minutes

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to approve the June 10, 2021, Finance Committee Minutes.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the June 10, 2021, Finance Committee Minutes.

II. Renewal

Resolution: The Board of Trustees of New Dawn Charter Schools will submit a charter renewal for New Dawn Charter High School for the 2022-2027 time period.

Mr. Tabano informed the board that one of the things that the board must do is to vote whether the board wishes to renew the school charter. Mr. Tabano then asked for a motion if the board wishes to renew the charter.

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned that the Board of Trustees of New Dawn Charter Schools will submit a charter renewal for New Dawn Charter High School for the 2022-2027 time period.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve that the Board of Trustees of New Dawn Charter Schools will submit a charter renewal for New Dawn Charter High School for the 2022-2027 time period.

III. Board Elections

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

Benchmark 10: Legal Compliance

Resolution: Nominations & membership

Mr. Tabano asked if there is a motion to accept and approve the existing board members to continue in their roles as board members for the next year, except for Mr. Amit Bahl or has resigned effective June 30, 2021.

Motion: Ms. Jane Sun motioned to accept and approve to accept the following board members to continue in their roles for July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022: Jane Sun, Ronald Tabano, Brian Baer, Katharine Urbati, and Jonathon Carrington.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.



Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the existing board members to continue in their roles for the next year.

Resolution: Officers Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary

Mr. Tabano asked if there was a nomination and a motion to fill the Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary positions on the board. Ms. Katharine Urbati nominated Mr. Ron Tabano to continue as chairperson, Mr. Tabano nominated Ms. Jane Sun as the Vice-Chair, Mr. Tabano nominated Ms. Katharine Urbati as the treasurer, and Ms. Katharine Urbati nominated Mr. Brian Baer as the secretary.

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to accept and approve Mr. Ron Tabano to continue as chairperson, Ms. Jane Sun to be the Vice-Chair, Ms. Katharine Urbati to be the treasurer, and Mr. Brian Baer to be the secretary.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and Mr. Ron Tabano to continue as chairperson, Ms. Jane Sun to be the Vice-Chair, Ms. Katharine Urbati to be the treasurer, and Mr. Brian Baer to be the secretary.

IV. Check Signatories

Resolution: Additions and removals

Dr. Sara Asmussen reminded the board members that since Mr. Amit Bahl will be leaving the board, that Ms. Jane Sun and Mr. Brian Baer be added as signatories for checks. Mr. Tabano then asked the board if there is a motion to accept and approve Ms. Jane Sun and Mr. Brian Baer as the new signatories for the school checking account.

Motion: Mr. Amit Bahl motioned to accept and approve Ms. Jane Sun and Mr. Brian Baer as the new signatories for the school checking account.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Ron Tabano seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve Ms. Jane Sun and Mr. Brian Baer as the new signatories for the school checking account.

Mr. Tabano asked how quickly this change can take effect. Dr. Asmussen replied that as soon the banking paperwork is done the changes will take effect. Mr. Steve Ramkissoon also informed the board that most expenses were already paid, and the schools were up to date. He also suggested that perhaps issuing checks twice a month may be a viable procedure during summer school. Mr. Tabano indicated that this suggestion was fine.

V. Financials—Steve Ramkissoon



Benchmark 4: Financial Condition
Benchmark 5: Financial Management

Mr. Ramkissoon reported to the board that similarly to last month, both schools are doing well above what was budgeted for the school year. Obviously, the PPP loan has made a positive impact on the school budgets as the school year ends. At this point in the year, collectively the schools should be at 92% expenditures and revenue should be at 93%. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that, in response to Ms. Urbati's questions this morning he offered the following response. First, Ms. Urbati noticed that from April 2021 to May 2021 in the Brooklyn school, there was a decrease in payroll services. Mr. Ramkissoon stated that this was due to an adjustment made to unemployment deductions by Paylocity, the payroll company. Once the adjustment was made, it was reflected on the books as a decrease in payroll services. Mr. Ramkissoon also reported that for the Queens school, revenue is at 76%, and expenses are at 62%. Subsequently, the Queens school will have a higher net income than projected. Additionally, the school saved considerable revenue due to lower expenses throughout the school year. In reference to Ms. Urbati's question concerning a \$18,000 expense at the Queens school, Mr. Ramkissoon stated that the expense was incurred to replace door locks in the school. Barone, the landlord, has agreed that once the school pays for the locksmith services, they will reimburse the school for the expense. In conclusion, considering the consolidated budget, both schools are doing well financially.

Mr. Tabano asked if there were no objections to the May 2021 financials and if there was a motion to accept the May 2021 financials.

a. Resolution: May 2021 Financials

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to approve and accept the May 2021 financials.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the May 2021 financials.

b. Resolution: Five Year Financials for 2022-2026 school years

Mr. Tabano then asked Mr. Ramkissoon to present the five-year financials. Mr. Ramkissoon asked the board members if they all had a chance to look at the five-year financials that Dr. Asmussen emailed. All board members confirmed that they did. Mr. Tabano asked if there was a motion to accept and approve the five-year financials.

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to approve and accept the five-year financials.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the five-year financials.



c. Friends of

Mr. Ramkissoon informed the board that “Friends of” is still in progress. Mr. Ramkissoon stated that he has called the IRS. He also stated that normally it takes 90 days and that it has taken a lot longer because of a backlog. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that as soon as he knows anything, he will inform the board accordingly.

d. GKV

In reference to GKV, Dr. Asmussen stated that she emailed all the board members a letter received from GKV which was a reinstatement of services agreement. However, Dr. Asmussen stated that there is a paragraph in the letter which made her feel very uncomfortable. The letter makes it clear that GKV is going to take legal action concerning the \$241,000 that they never billed for and was covered under no contract. The school attorneys agree that if we sign the GKV letter, it will be an admittance that we owe them the \$241,000. Therefore, this is going to prevent us from getting our permanent certificate of occupancy. This is the reason we cannot sign the letter. Dr. Asmussen also stated that Steven Ramkissoon and Brian Baer are getting documentation to the school attorneys and have them work something out with the GKV attorneys.

Mr. Baer stated that his conversation with Joe Barbagallo from GKV yesterday morning was that there is still a question about the 7.5K that GKV claims is still outstanding. Mr. Brian Baer stated that this money was paid directly to the Metropolis. Mr. Baer also stated that he is uncomfortable having the school sign this letter.

VI. Insurance—Steve Ramkissoon

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

a. Resolution: Health, Dental, Vision

Mr. Ramkissoon stated that the school should remain with Oxford since there are several staff in the middle of serious health procedures. Further, all premiums will basically be the same due to the size of NDCS. The premiums will remain the same for the dental plan with a small reduction in our vision plan and asked the Board to consider fully cover the Vision Plan with no employee match. Mr. Ramkissoon believes that the employees will be satisfied.

Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that since NDCHS is still a company with under 100 employees, it is still considered a small group by Oxford Freedom and Liberty. As such,

the Oxford Freedom and Liberty high plan includes a 3.43% increase, and the low plan includes a 5.81% increase. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that he was reluctant to go out to market and change out Oxford since there are some employees that depend on the current benefits with Oxford.

Motion: Ms. Jane Sun motioned to approve and accept continuing with Oxford and paying the total premium for the Vision Policy.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Amit Bahl seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve continuing with Oxford and paying the entire premium on the vision policy.

b. Resolution: Short-term and Long-term Disability

Mr. Ramkissoon stated that he went out to market to look at all the ancillary benefits available including short term and long-term disability benefits, life insurance benefits, accidental death benefits, and UDI. Mr. Ramkissoon was able to get quotes from our current carrier Guardian, Lincoln, UNAM, and several other carriers.

Mr. Ramkissoon stated that one of the limitations of the current ancillary insurance policy is the short-term and long-term disability maximum benefits. Short term disability insurance only pays a maximum of 60% of an employee's salary with a cap of \$1,000. Obviously, that amount is not enough to meet an individual's financial needs. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that he was able to find a life insurance policy with a maximum benefit of 400K versus the current 300K offered by the school's existing policy. Additionally, Mr. Ramkissoon stated even with an increase in employee life insurance benefits totaling 450K and 400K, the school will save money if it switches from Guardian. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that he was able to eliminate the four reduction schedules which are based on an employee's age and which decrease the death benefit paid out. UNUM Insurance Co. has agreed to only two reduction schedules at age 65 and 75 at 70% of the employee's salary. Short-term disability benefits are increased to \$2,000. from the \$1,000. we currently have. Mr. Ramkissoon also informed the board that short term disability benefit costs were a little higher than the actual no matter which insurance carrier is considered.

Regarding Long Term Disability benefits, there is an increase in benefits from the \$6,000 that Guardian is currently offering to \$10,000 a month with a new provider. Additionally, there is a savings in cost. Regarding UDI, Mr. Ramkissoon informed the board that UDI is supplemental insurance to the ancillary insurance plan which will only pay up to 60% of an employee's salary. UDI will provide an additional 15% to the employee. This is an option available if the school opts to use UNUM Insurance Co. Mr. Ramkissoon stated that if the board decides to switch to UNUM Insurance Co. Mr. Ramkissoon stated that it



will save the school approximately \$6500 per year even if it includes the UDI benefit. Ms. Urbati commented that she believed that this new benefits packet was best for employees and that she recommended going with the UDI.

Mr. Tabano asked the board members if there is a motion to accept the new employee benefits package including UDI from UNUM Insurance Company.

Motion: Ms. Jane Sun motioned to approve and accept the new employee benefits package including UDI from UNUM Insurance Company.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Amit Bahl seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the new employee benefits package including UDI from UNUM Insurance Company.

c. Resolution: Liability and Building

Mr. Ramkissoon stated that last year, the board decided to accept all insurance coverages as status quo due to the pandemic. However, this year, Mr. Ramkissoon went out to market to see what was available to ascertain if the schools could do better. The current Austin insurance plan was reviewed. Mr. Ramkissoon informed the board that he reached out to Gallagher. He was informed that Gallagher insures most of the charter schools in New York City. However, because of an ongoing lawsuit at Queens, Gallagher was unable to negotiate a policy with any other carrier. Gallagher did inform us that it will take three to five years before another carrier may give the school a viable quote.

Gallagher's quote revealed that in reference to worker's compensation, currently under Austin and company for one year, Gallagher is quoting \$3,500 less which can translate into a 9K savings per year. If we decided to move those two insurances from Austin and company to Gallagher, the question becomes can student accident stand by itself or must it be combined with other insurances. Mr. Ramkissoon stated that Workers' comp insurance can stand by itself. Therefore, this is something the board would have to decide. However, it is possible to save approximately \$9,000 if we parcel out workers comp and student accident. Further, Mr. Ramkissoon stated that he believes that Gallagher is a strong company for the future.

Mr. Tabano asked Mr. Ramkissoon for his recommendation. Mr. Tabano further asked if the school should parcel out insurance coverages and would parceling out coverage have any negative effect regarding the Austin policy. Mr. Ramkissoon replied that at this time he thought that just parceling out the worker's compensation policy would be best. Mr. Ramkissoon also added that the school can save \$9,000 by going with Gallagher. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that a positive was that Gallagher was very responsive to his requests. Mr. Tabano also asked Ms. Urbati for her recommendation. Ms. Urbati stated



that it may not be worth moving to another carrier in the wake of the lawsuit just experienced. Furthermore, even though Austin is not the only option, it may be more plausible to maintain a positive relationship until all legal matters and ramifications are resolved. Ms. Urbati also added that when all legal matters are settled, then perhaps the school can consider moving entirely over to Gallagher.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board if there was a motion to continue with Austin & Co.

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to continue with Austin & Co.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to continue with Austin & Co.

VII. HR (Hiring)—Nazli Askin

Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity

Ms. Askin informed the board that the job fair was conducted at the beginning of the month. There were thirteen (13) individuals who came to the job fair. Interviews and demos were conducted for almost every candidate that attended. Of the candidates interviewed, three were moved on for positions in the Queens school, an ELA teacher, Aspiring teacher, and a guidance counselor. If the references check out, the school will be making an employment offer. Interviews are still being conducted for the math, science, and social studies teacher positions. Math and Science teaching positions have been difficult to fill. Additionally, Ms. Askin informed the board that the Brooklyn school is still seeking a college and career coordinator as well as an ELA teacher, aspiring teacher, and a special education teacher. Ms. Askin also stated that screening calls are being conducted over the past few weeks and demos are scheduled for next week.

Mr. Tabano wished Ms. Askin luck with the process and acknowledged that it certainly is difficult to get good and qualified teachers. Further, especially during these times, Science and Math teaching positions are particularly hard to fill.

VIII. Contracts—Mr. Jose Obregon, Dr. Sara Asmussen

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

a. Resolution: Elevator Contract

Mr. Jose Obregon informed the board that Dr. Asmussen emailed the board members two (2) proposals for elevator maintenance at the Brooklyn school. One of the contract proposals is from Precision elevator company and the other one was from Otis Elevator Company. Mr. Obregon also informed the board that the Precision Elevator proposal is



twice as costly as the Otis Elevator proposal. Precision Elevator is charging approximately \$6,000 per maintenance year and Otis Elevator approximately \$3000 per year. This translates to a monthly payment of approximately \$500 per month versus \$224 per month. Mr. Obregon acknowledged that the cost difference is significant. However, Mr. Obregon stated that he discussed these proposals with Mr. Ed Cinni, the lead supervisor for Benchmark during the school construction project. Mr. Cinni confirmed that Precision Elevator was the company that did the installation of the new elevator system. Additionally, Precision Elevator was the company servicing the elevator before the construction began in the old building. Therefore, Precision is well familiar with our device and building. So far, they have demonstrated to be efficient and reliable. Subsequently, even though they are more expensive, Mr. Obregon stated that it is probably the best course of action to stay with Precision.

Mr. Tabano remarked that the elevator system is still brand new and that, at best, Precision is going to come in and check a few things every month. He also stated that he is assuming that Precision did a good job in the installation. Mr. Tabano also stated that in the long run, rather than jumping back and forth between companies, it is better to stay with Precision at this time. He also stated that he does not anticipate anything going wrong, but if it does, it will be on Precision. Mr. Tabano asked if the elevator was still under warranty. Mr. Obregon replied that right now the elevator is still under warranty until the end of August 2021. Therefore, the school has yet another two months of service under the warranty. The new contract will take effect on the 1st of September 2021.

Mr. Tabano asked if there were any other questions or comments from the board members. Ms. Urbati asked Mr. Obregon if the elevator has had any problems to date. Mr. Obregon replied that there were only minimal problems that were quickly resolved. For example, there was two occasions where the elevator door on two separate floors was sticking and not opening properly. Precision was called and came in the same day and immediately resolved the problem. Mr. Obregon also stated that Precision also conducted the annual CAT 1 inspection for this year. This inspection is a NYC annual requirement. The elevator passed inspection without any issues.

Mr. Tabano also remarked that if something were to go wrong with the elevator during the year, we can hold Precision responsible and negotiate any price that they may try to charge the school. Mr. Tabano asked Ms. Urbati and Ms. Jane Sun what they thought. He asked them if that was a reasonable expectation. Both Ms. Urbati and Ms. Sun agreed. Mr. Tabano then asked Mr. Obregon if he thought that this was a reasonable expectation and Mr. Obregon acknowledged that it was. Mr. Obregon further added that Precision elevator is tied in with our security company. Currently, the school can control elevator access. Precision works with Mutual Alarms to ensure both systems are working together as they should be. This is just another item to consider in this decision. Mr.



Tabano stated that he believes that Precision Elevator is the best choice for this contract. He then asked the board members if there was resolution to accept and approve the Precision Elevator maintenance contract.

Motion: Ms. Jane Sun motioned to accept and approve the Precision Elevator maintenance contract.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Katharine Urbati

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve the Precision Elevator maintenance contract.

b. Resolution: Auditing Contract

Mr. Tabano asked Mr. Obregon to speak about the Auditing contract. Mr. Obregon deferred to Mr. Ramkissoon who confirmed that the school wants to continue to stay with Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA's, LLC.

Mr. Tabano then remarked that Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA's, LLC. is the best choice. He also stated that the company has proven to be extremely thorough and they are cost effective. Mr. Tabano also remarked that the school has had great success with them. Therefore, he is recommending that the school stay with them. He asked if any of the board members had any objections to his recommendation. There were no objections. Mr. Tabano then asked if there was a motion to accept and approve Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA's, LLC to remain as the school's accounting firm.

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to accept and approve Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA's, LLC to remain as the school's accounting firm.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun seconded the motion.

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and approve Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA's, LLC to remain as the school's accounting firm.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a motion to approve and accept the pre-audit letter.

Motion: Ms. Katharine Urbati motioned to approve and accept the pre-audit letter from Schall & Ashenfarb, CPA.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Jane Sun

Vote: The board unanimously voted to approve and accept the pre-audit letter.

Mr. Tabano asked Dr. Lisa DiGaudio to take the floor.

c. Resolution: Board Works Education



Dr. DiGaudio informed the board that EdGenuity is costly and between both schools, we are paying up to \$25,000. per year. Some of this cost was offset by NYSTLL funding. However, Ms. DiGaudio was able to ascertain that Board Works Education is a better value for both schools. Dr. DiGaudio stated that Board Works is a program that comes with all the major subjects including SEL, Special Ed, and ELL resources. Lessons are already Next Generation aligned and prepared for students. So, for example if someone is out sick, the lessons are already in place. If someone is not understanding something there are additional resources. There is embedded professional development for the staff. It is a onetime fee for life. Therefore, the schools can add as many students as we want. If we replicate a school, we can add that school at no cost. The cost for this program is \$15,000. This program includes chemistry and physics even though currently we do not offer those subjects. Considering this, Dr. DiGaudio thinks she can negotiate the price down \$12,000. This cost is a onetime and lifetime fee and can be used with ESSA funding to impact learning loss occurred during the pandemic. After consideration of all these factors, Dr. DiGaudio recommended that we should purchase it as an instructional resource.

Mr. Tabano asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the purchase of Board Works Education.

Motion: Ms. Jane Sun motioned to accept and approve the purchase of Board Works Education.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Katharine Urbati

Vote: The board unanimously voted to accept and motion the purchase of Board Works Education.

IX. Facilities—Jose Obregon

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance – Dr. Asmussen

Mr. Obregon stated that for the Brooklyn facilities, the monthly sprinkler system inspection was conducted with no issues. There is some signage that needs to be placed on the façade of the building indicating that there is a sprinkler system in the building and identifying the water source as per FDNY and NYC DOB requirements. Mr. Obregon also informed the board that Mr. Brian Baer is looking to submit a signed letter of completion for the construction project. Mr. Brian Baer believes that we can proceed with signing such a letter since Benchmark will complete the few punch list items that are still outstanding. This includes fixing the handicap ramp, fixing the rear exit door system, and some work that needs to be completed on the caging that houses the rooftop units. Mr. Tabano asked the board members if they wanted to discuss it now or table it and wait until later. The Board members agreed to wait until later.

Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that Todd from Benchmark is offering one of our students an eight week \$20 an hour placement at benchmark. Mr. Tabano thought that was a great opportunity.

Regarding the Queens school, Mr. Obregon stated that next month, the board is going to see at least two proposals for furniture that will be needed in the coming school year. This includes teacher desks, teacher chairs, bulletin boards, and whiteboards. Since there is only one fire alarm system for the whole building, the Queens school will also have to coordinate with GUG to coordinate next year's fire drill schedule. There is still some outstanding work that needs to be completed. For example, there is need to install a fence in the back alleyway and fencing on stairwells A and B on the fourth floor to prevent students from going up the rooftop. Mr. Obregon will discuss with Mr. Ramkissoon and Barone to determine if the school must pay for any of these projects.

X. Grants

Benchmark 1: Student Performance

Benchmark 3: Culture, Climate, and Student & Family Engagement

Benchmark 8: Mission & Key Design Elements

a. ESSER and CCR grants updates— Dr. Sara Asmussen

As per the Finance Committee meeting minutes, the use of these funds will be spent towards learning loss. Dr. Asmussen stated that the school got \$85 more on CRR and about \$1,000 more on the larger grant. However, Dr. Asmussen also stated that there still is no instruction on how to apply for the larger grant. As discussed in the finance meeting, the grant that is due next week is going to be used for staff to combat social emotional issues and learning loss encountered during COVID. There is considerable research which shows that resolving social emotional issues greatly increases academic behaviors. This includes both schools.

Regarding the bigger grant, the plan is to renovate the kitchen in Queens to increase learning in all areas. Again, there is significant research that shows culinary impacts learning in math, reading, social studies, and science. For the Brooklyn school, Dr. Asmussen stated that the school has already started a zoning survey for the roof to convert the space on the roof into a permanent and legal classroom and to install pavers on the rooftop. The rationalization will be that the school did not want to give up the computer room that we have reserved for students with learning loss to our PE program. However, we still need to have a PE program for academic, social and emotional mental health.

b. All other grants—Sara Asmussen

Dr. Asmussen stated that the other grants are going as usual and that we are winding down the A Game grant. At our last A Game meeting, a conversation was started about how to use the outcomes of the project. Notably, the CSI is now going to use alternative measures for transfer schools during renewal. Topics such as annual Regents, which Dr. Asmussen presented last month, versus the cohort regions, and seven-year graduation rates were discussed and are being considered. Dr. Asmussen further stated that these discussions provided the motivation for moving forward. Dr. Asmussen stated that this was a positive development. Dr. Asmussen also stated that the NYS is going to analyze the data also which is just fantastic, leaving the school to analyze our specific data. Dr. Asmussen also stated that like every other school, including NDCHS, we will get our ESSA outcomes including our 30% or 24% graduation rate and other like measures. Mr. Tabano congratulated Dr. Asmussen on doing a great job with this initiative.

XI. School Reports

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

Benchmark 9: Enrollment, Recruitment, & Retention

a. Brooklyn— Ms. Donna Lobato, Principal, NDCHS Brooklyn

Ms. Lobato reported to the board that Regent exams are completed. Additionally, the school did a considerable amount of outreach to students and the turnout was particularly good. A total of thirteen (13) students took the ELA Regents, eighteen (18) students took the Living environment Regents exam, and fourteen (14) students took the Algebra Regents exam. The staff is still scoring the exams and will conduct an analysis and consider student attendance. Preliminary reports indicated that a good number of students did well on the Algebra Regents exam.

Ms. Lobato reported that tomorrow there are more senior activities taking place including the senior community block party from 11 AM to 3 PM. There is a permit in place to close off the block. There will be games, cotton candy, popcorn, and a barbeque. Prior to the block party, graduation will take place in the cafeteria. The January graduates will get their diplomas and then the June graduates will get their diplomas over the summer. Ms. Lobato stated that the senior committee did an outstanding job organizing the graduation and the senior graduation events. Scheduling for Summer school is now being conducted and there is a good number of students that are making appointments to get scheduled. This will impact the August 2021 graduates.

b. Queens—Mr. Zach Flory, Principal, NDCHS Queens



Mr. Zach Flory reported to the board that similar events are happenings in the Queens school. He also stated that the Queens school had less of a turnout for Regent's exams. Nevertheless, three (3) students took the ELA exam. Six (6) students that took the Living Environment Regents and two (2) students who took the Algebra Regents. Mr. Flory stated that he was happy with the results although there was a small turn-out. Mr. Flory also stated, as Ms. Askin mentioned before, there were a couple of staff positions filled and more interviews have been scheduled. Further, the school has some math and science teachers scheduled for the first week of summer school for demo as well as some social studies teachers. Mr. Flory reported that the outreach team has been doing a lot of phone screenings and scheduling demos at the Queens building. For summer school, students will be asked to come in person for scheduling on the week of July 6th to meet with schedulers personally. The school will make the transition now in the summer, where staff is personally meeting with students and reviewing their transcripts, their audit sheets, and making sure that they are really on track to go forward. This process was interrupted by COVID. The school opened in September 2019 and closed on March 13, 2020 and thus has not really had the time to establish our process of meeting individually with students to review schedules. This will be fine tuned over the summer and implemented again with all students in September 2021.

Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that Queens has their first graduate, although the student did have to transfer to Brooklyn in order to complete his work since Queens only went to 10th grade this year and not all the classes he needed were available. Since, we are only adding a grade per year, Queens is not scheduled to have seniors until 2023. Mr. Flory added that he is really a great student. He is also an ELL student who is first generation in this country from Yemen.

XII. Student Performance—Dr. Asmussen

Benchmark 1: Student Performance

Dr. Asmussen indicated that student performance was already addressed by the two Principals.

XIII. New Business - Dr. Asmussen, Executive Director

Mr. Tabano asked Dr. Asmussen if there was any new business that need to be discussed. Dr. Asmussen replied that there was none at this time. Mr. Tabano also stated that this would be Mr. Amit Bahl's last board meeting. He further addressed Mr. Bahl and stated that the board recognized that this was his last board meeting and the board wanted to thank him and especially during these tough times. Mr. Tabano told Mr. Amit Bahl that Mr. Bahl got us to get us to where we are now. Mr. Tabano also stated it is always great to have another educator as a member of the board that brings their insight and

intelligence to the table. Finally, Mr. Tabano told Mr. Bahl that the board really appreciates what he has done for the organization.

XIV. Adjournment

Mr. Tabano complimented all in attendance for their dedication and outstanding work during this school year, especially considering all the monumental challenges everyone has faced. Mr. Tabano remarked that despite all these challenges, everyone rose to the challenge and got it done. The board agreed to meet on July 27, 2021, at 11:00 AM. The board adjourned at 2:40 PM.