

**New America School Board Meeting
Tuesday September 13, 2016
Minutes from NAS Board**

Board Members in Attendance: Mary Hanewall (Vice-chair), Gina Nocera, Terry Whitney, Jorge Loweree, Dianne Lefly, Polly Baca, Sarah Kurz, Matt DeAngelis (Treasurer)

Regrets: Vincent Badolato (Chair), Deb Brackney, Bill Bethke, Tomas Mejia, Mara Gonzalez (Secretary)

Meeting called to order at 4:40 by Mary Hanewall

Minutes

1. Moved by Polly Baca and seconded by Gina Nocera that the agenda be approved.
2. Moved by Polly Baca and seconded by Dianne Lefly that the minutes of August 9, 2016 be approved as amended. Votes: Unanimous.
3. A first step in the renewal process with CSI for both Lowry and Thornton is that the Board pass a resolution to initiate the renewal process. Moved by Sarah Kurz and seconded by Jorge Lowree that Resolution 2016-09-13-01 and Resolution 2016-09-13-02 be approved. Votes: Unanimous.
4. Ray Peterson explained the need to amend the FY15-16 Lowry budget because of a shortfall caused by adding additional staff without increasing the amount needed for salaries. Moved by Matt DeAngelis and seconded by Dianne Lefly that the FY2015-16 budget for Lowry be amended as presented. Votes: Unanimous.
5. Craig Cook discussed his employment agreement with the Network that was approved at the last Network Board meeting on September 8, 2016. It is an at will agreement from January 1, 2017 to June 30, 2017. Given the amount of transitional work that will be required in this period (Thornton bond, Lakewood bond, looking for facility for Lowry etc.), Craig indicated he would be devoting 10 hours/week to the Colorado schools. This will result in an increase from \$30K to \$38K in the line item for NAS to Network contribution. An amended budget will come to the Board in January.
6. In order to support the bond issue and mill levy override in the November election for Jefferson County, the NAS Board wanted to fully support the bond campaign. Moved by Sarah Kurz and seconded by Jorge Lowree that the NAS Board fully supports the bond issuance and mill levy override for Jefferson County to support our Lakewood campus. Votes: Unanimous.
7. The Superintendent report was received. Dominic highlighted the Scholarship recipients, the Ballot Initiative Information fact sheet, and requested any changes to the board member information provided.
8. Jody Ernst with Momentum Research compiled a percentile ranking for alternative students nationwide for average MAP growth by grade level. Jennifer presented results for our three schools. Many of the results were most impressive.
9. Tracey McCormick introduced Susanna Gould from the Lakewood campus who outlined some work being done in our schools to support students affected with

trauma. She cited a few schools in the Washington and NY areas that have developed a building block model for learning. Questions from the Board were addressed.

10. Authorizer update:

- The external team for the Lowry evaluation is reaching out to the Board to find out what the Board would like the team to look for as they do their visit
- There has been a marked improvement in communication and transparency from last year with CSI staff
- Board members are to meet with the external review team on **October 4th, from 3:00-5:00 at Lowry**
- Renewal discussions with CSI staff have been ongoing and constructive

11. Ray provided a brief update on the financial audits to date and future preparation for the remaining audits. An amended budget will be presented to the Board in January.

12. Principal Updates:

Annie:

- Renewal preparation is ongoing
- 432 counted students enrolled
- Potential 100 graduates this year
- Increased number of alumni attending post-secondary institutions

Mike

- Renewal ongoing
- Fully staffed
- 355 enrolled. Not optimistic that he will hit his 400 projection.
- Night school declining in numbers
- Great camaraderie among staff and students.

13. Network Report

- Network bylaws amended
- Each charter school will have two voting directors-the alternate position no longer exists
- Will be submitting applications for a charter and CSP funding for Las Vegas
- Network attorney is working on modifying the three Network agreements to ensure another “Phoenix” doesn’t happen again. She will also be preparing a Development Plan to ensure the incubating entity signs all agreements (to be true to the model) once the Governing Body is established.

14. Committee Reports

➤ **Board Leadership:**

- The December 13th board meeting will be cancelled and in its place a board social will be held at Polly’s.
- BLC members will be in contact with other board members to see if they wish to renew their terms and they will also engage in 1-1 conversations to see how they are doing and what they would like to improve with the functioning of the Board.

- Anyone interested in an officer's position or has a recommendation for one, please contact Polly. Polly will follow-up with an email.
- We are seeking a replacement on the Board to fill Paula Gomez Farrell's departure.
- NAS will need to provide 6 directors to the Network Board. If interested please let Polly know. All directors will be voting members. Phone in to the meetings is possible and should alleviate some concern for travel and time commitment.
- **Fundraising:** Written report presented. Small clarification on the student re-engagement grant provided.
- **Scholarship:** David provided a short bio for each recipient. All are doing well in their post-secondary studies. One student is receiving additional financial support from the JPF.
- **Finance:** No written report
- **Executive:** No written report
- **Search:**
 - Currently Gina, Deb and Mary on the committee.
 - Mary will seek out additional board members to serve on the Search Committee.
 - MSEC will assist in the search.
 - Benefits package to superintendent: \$135-145K salary; health, dental, vision benefits, 403B, travel and phone allowances
 - Negotiate travel and moving expenses if required
 - National search
 - Need to determine the key characteristics the Board wants in this individual
 - Board and staff surveys desired, possibly some 1:1s with NAS staff
 - Job description completed
 - Process expected to be completed by mid-late March.

15. Public Input: None

16. Meeting adjourned at 6:07 pm

A telephonic special Board meeting was called on Wednesday September 21st 11:30 am. It was properly noticed and had a one item agenda.

A quorum was present (Vinny, Mara, Dianne, Mary, Terry, Polly, Deb).

Meeting called to order at 11:31 am.

1. The draft audit report for Lowry for FY16 shows that we used \$34,020 of beginning fund balance for the year.
During the past year at Lowry we spent \$65,176 on leasehold improvements at the school to make the environment more pleasing for

the students and staff. These included kitchen equipment wiring, tile and cove base for the 1st floor hallway and cafeteria, carpeting for the main office and four classrooms, and painting the entire 2nd floor. We had thought there was enough money in the budget to allow these expenditures without using beginning fund balance, but that turns out not to be correct.

Moved by Polly Baca and seconded by Deb Brackney that resolution 2016-09-21-01 be approved as presented. Votes: Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37 am.