



NEW HEIGHTS SCHOOLS, INC.
614 W. MULBERRY STREET, STILLWATER, MN 55082

Phone: 651-439-1962
Fax: 651-439-0716

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, January 14, 2021

Google Meet's Meeting

Phone ID: +1 609-491-2387 Pin: 453 823 472#

2:00p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

MINUTES

I. Opening of Meeting and Call to Order

Board Chair Sam Taylor called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

a. Attendance:

Board of Directors

Lorraine Busta P

Jen Geil P

Christie Hogan P

Mike Stahlmann P

Sam Taylor P

Ex-Officio

Tom Kearney (Principal/Superintendent)

Lindsay Berberich (Bookkeeper)

Visitors

(no visitors)

b. Welcome New Members/Guests/Visitors

Board Chair Sam Taylor welcomed all those present.

II. Review of Agenda & Minutes

a. Review Agenda & Conflict of Interest

The agenda was reviewed with no changes recommended. A roll call was completed to see if anyone had a conflict of interest with the Agenda items. Votes are as follows: Mike – no, Christie – no, Jen- no, Lorraine - no, Sam – no.

b. Approval of the December 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes (action)

On motion by Lorraine seconded by Jen with all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the Board of Directors minutes of December 17, 2020 as presented. Votes are as follows: Mike– yes, Christie – yes, Jen- yes, Lorraine - yes, Sam – yes.

III. Financial Report

a. Financial Review (Action)

Lindsay presented and answered questions on the December 2020 Check Register report (available on common drive).

On motion by Sam seconded by Lorraine with all present voting yes, motion passed to approve the Check Register as presented. Votes are as follows: Mike – yes, Christie – yes, Jen- yes, Lorraine - yes, Sam – yes.

IV. Old Business

a. Board Goals for 2020-21

- i.** To appropriately increase the school's level of social media engagement for the purpose of increasing exposure of the school to gain enrollment and community support by June 2021.
Sam led a discussion on this goal including the playground. Christie added numbers listed on the shared document. She will be working on ways of improving social media.
- ii.** Closely monitor and assess the schools progress towards meeting the authorizer contract goals and determine appropriate responses and corrective action.
Sam led a discussion on this goal. The MN Guild goals are listed as Accountability Goals in the shared drive. She led a discussion on how we are working on these six goals. We are having limited testing this Spring, but we do not have last Spring or Fall testing data for comparison. MN Guild is aware of non-testing due to Covid-19.
- iii.** Develop an outline for Five-year strategic plan by December 31,2020 and finalize plan by May 31,2021 with intent to implement in 2021-2022 school year.
Sam led a discussion on this goal. Lorraine created an overview and shared this document listed on the shared drive.
- iv.** Determine the viability of different models of pre-K programming for the school and select a plan by June 1, 2021.
Sam led a discussion on this goal.

V. New Business

- a.** School Choice Week (January 24 – January 30)
Tom led a discussion on how we will be celebrating School Choice Week during Covid-19. We received rubber wrist bands this year. Sam discussed having Jackbox and is willing to be the administrator.
- b.** School Calendar 2021-2022
Tom discussed the progress of ISD 834 School Calendar for 2021-2022. We will discuss this further when they approve their calendar.

VI. Policy Review (action)

a. Policy Revisions for Approval

- i.** #402- Disability Nondiscrimination (Christie)
Christie led a discussion reviewing this document and recommended changes.

On motion by Christie seconded by Lorraine with all present voting yes, motion passed to adopt the Policy #402- Disability Nondiscrimination Policy as presented. Votes are as follows: Mike – yes, Christie – yes, Jen- yes, Lorraine - yes, Sam – yes.

- ii.** #522- Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process (Lorraine)
Lorraine led a discussion reviewing this document and recommended changes.

On motion by Lorraine seconded by Sam with all present voting yes, motion passed to adopt the Policy #522- Title IX Sex Nondiscrimination Policy, Grievance Procedure and Process as presented. Votes are as follows: Mike – yes, Christie – yes, Jen- yes, Lorraine - yes, Sam – yes.

b. Policies for February

- i.** #413- Harassment and Violence
Lorraine led a discussion on this policy. Jen agreed to review this policy.

ii. #709- Student Transportation Safety Policy

Lorraine led a discussion on this policy. Christie agreed to review this policy.

VII. Administrator's Report

Tom Kearney gave a report on the state of the school including the following:

- **Student Statistics:** *We just completed 79 days and currently have 113 students enrolled with an ADM of 108.23. Our attendance is currently at 94.05%. We have added 9 students and dropped two with one returning. We seem to have a lot of interest in next year.*
- **Covid-19 Updates:** *We are planning on starting the K-2 in-class instruction on January 27, 3&4 February 10, and grades 5&6 on February 24. Our school day will be 9:30-2:15 five days a week. The ISD834 has control of bussing but they seem to be very flexible. There are no current plans to return the secondary but that could change. If the Covid-19 numbers are lowered, we could conceivably start secondary on April 5th which is the beginning of the fourth quarter. This would possibly necessitate a change in the school day. We are still required to give parents the option of distance learning through the end of this school year. Tom is encouraging the teachers to be a little more flexible to get student work done and completed. We still have a few students who have checked-in but are not doing their work. Tom is also re-activating the ARC (Academic Review Committee) to help in this area. The secondary semester schedule has been agreed to and published. Most of our Seniors are in a good place for graduation. We are getting additional Covid-19 funds which is around \$83K. These are based on free and reduced lunch students. Lindsay and Tom are looking at how to best spend these funds.*

On motion by Sam seconded by Christie with all present voting yes, motion passed to return to in-class instruction as discussed. Votes are as follows: Mike – yes, Christie – yes, Jen- yes, Lorraine - yes, Sam – yes

Tom also discussed saliva testing. He encouraged all secondary staff to return to the school building when the elementary returns.

- **Staff:** *Tom is conducting interviews for the Health office. He has had interest from parents to fill this need. We have avoided hiring current parents because of confidentiality.*

VIII. Receive Donations

No donations reported.

IX. Other (not to exceed 5 minutes)

Christie asking if any Board member has a relationship with U.S. Bank foundation to contact her. She is working on obtaining grants for the playground fundraiser.

X. Set Agenda for Next Meeting

a. Date & Time *(February 11, 4:00pm Google Meet)*

b. Agenda/Responsibilities

i. Financial Review (Lindsay)

ii. Board Goals (Sam)

iii. School Calendar

iv. Present/Review #413- Harassment and Violence (Jen)

v. Present/Review #709- Student Transportation Safety Policy (Christie)

vi. Administrators Report (Tom)

vii. Assign March Policies: #514- Bullying Prohibition and #620- Credit for Learning

XI. Adjournment

On the motion by Lorraine seconded by Jen with all present voting yes, motion passed to adjourn the Board of Directors Meeting at 3:07 pm. Votes are as follows: Mike – yes, Jen- yes, Lorraine - yes, Sam – yes.

Next Meetings

*The next Board of Directors meeting will be on Thursday, February 11 at 4:00 pm via Google Meet
Phone ID: +1 609-491-2387 Pin: 453 823 472#.*