

# Minutes

## The American Dream Charter School

### Board Meeting

Tuesday Dec 16, 2014 @ 6:00 PM

#### Board Members Present

Damian Vargas, Luz Maria Rojas, Richard Levine, Zuleika Martinez

#### Guests Present

Melissa Melkonian, Nicholas Gallagher

## I. Opening Items

#### Call the Meeting to Order

Luz Maria Rojas called a meeting of the board of trustees of The American Dream Charter School to order on Tuesday Dec 16, 2014 @ 6:20 PM.

#### Approve Minutes

L. Rojas made a motion to approve minutes from the Board Meeting on 11-18-14.

Richard Levine seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## II. Academic Excellence

#### Student Performance

Newcomers are being challenged dramatically. Pushing teachers to push kids, especially newcomers and they are struggling. However, we have a new T.A. and Sped Teachers. Melissa has been in touch with Lemman College to come and do some volunteer work. Math and interim assessment a few weeks ago and students are low. Questions about correlation between native language and English literacy level.

## III. Community Outreach

#### Outreach

**\*\*vanguard mailing after the holidays are over \*\***sending packets out to schools and using the contacts that we used last year. **\*\***Sending direct mail to Principals, Guidance Counselors and Parent Coordinators.

#### Parent Workshop: Immigration Reform

Turnout was a little bit low. Weather was bad. As we get closer to some of the important dates (around March) we should do this type of event again.

## IV. Executive

#### Sandra Garcia - prospective board member

Sandra, robust experience as a journalist (NYT, Black Enterprise), very interested in the mission of the school. She went to Lehman College and Columbia. We can arrange opportunities to have Board members speak with her. Monday's are rough for Rick. If we can make a time to meet first before we vote on altering the Board Meeting Dates.

#### Change January Board Meeting to Monday Jan 12th

L. Rojas made a motion to Change Jan Board Meeting to 1/12/2015.

Richard Levine seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. Change on our website. Rosalin Espina is another prospective Board Member that we'll try to have attend January 12th board meeting.

## **Discuss Patricia Belair - Prospective "honorary" board member**

Was interested in joining the board but realized it was a time commitment. We will continue the discussion with her to see if she can join us in another board capacity.

## **Report on Seminar: The Role of Effective Board Committees in Nonprofit Governance**

\*\*Committee of the corporation \*\*Melissa as a Board Member \*\*Honorary Board members.

## **V. Finance**

### **Finances Update - November Board Reports**

director of curriculum is not a position, this is money for consultants. We will keep funds in this line item of "other purchased, professional, consulting." Some of the funds may have also been spent on SIOP.

## **VI. Principal's Report**

### **NYSED Visit Report**

State was here last week. First visit since we opened. Informal visit, he wanted to see the grounds. They are coming back in an official visit in March that will include a more rigorous review. Melissa mentioned changing our schedule currently to a block schedule. We will have to submit this request for approval. We are also thinking about changing from visual arts to performing arts (in order to practice more oral language development).

### **Charter Center Visit Report**

James co-taught a meeting with Ms. DeGiorgio. Came for an informal visit. Wanted to make himself available for questions. Encouraged Melissa to put in a space request, keep pushing the 100 student request. It's just a matter of putting something in and from there we will get a response that will tell us how to move forward. 100 students may need more sense. There isn't much of a downside, there is nothing to lose. Luz: planning ahead, doing the leg work now instead of waiting until the 3rd year. Damian agrees and also suggests getting it done now.

## **VII. Other Business**

### **December Open House Report**

Open house for parents and professionals. A lot of parents came in with a DOE application.

### **School in Recess 12/20 - 1/5**

## **VIII. Closing Items**

### **Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 07:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Luz Maria Rojas