NEW VISIONS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ MEETING
New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II (AMS II)
New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II (HUM II)

Minutes for Meeting held at AMS II:
Monday, June 16, 2014 at 5 p.m.

ATTENDANCE
Board Members present: Ronald Chaluisan (Secretary), Nancy Grossman,
Angel Rodriguez, Edna Vega (Chair)

Not Present: David Faber (Treasurer)

NVPS Staff: Jonathan Green, Stephany Martinez, Lori Mei,
Jennie Soler-McIntosh, Cynthia Rietscha

School Staff: Vanessa Arriola (DSO HUM II), Sharon John (COO AMS II),
Stacey King (Principal AMS II), Richard Gonzalez (Principal HUM II)

WELCOME
Ms. Vega opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S MINUTES
Ms. Vega put forth a motion to accept the minutes from the May 19, 2014 board meeting.

Ms. Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II
Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on the results from Trimester 3, the final anchor project for the year and the end of Saturday School.

Principal Gonzalez discussed school climate, describing several key events that took place at HUM II such as the Yankee Stadium Scholar Day Celebration and Spirit Week. During Spirit Week students were able to dress out of uniform and wear clothing that matched the theme of the day. He noted that uniform compliance has greatly improved with the institution of the HUM II Crest t-shirt. In response to the complaints from students about lack of variety, color and options, the HUM II leadership team had a t-shirt in grey custom designed with a full color crest.

Mr. Gonzalez described community connections, noting that HUM II had the opportunity to present at the Community Advisory Board (CAB) culmination ceremony and talk about the emerging partnership with YUCA Visual Arts Program. Ms. Lucinda Kalin, HUM II Art Teacher, described the work the scholars were doing with local artists such as Aracelis Benavides; a New York artist whose work in photography ranges from ads to Mercedes Fashion Week and more. He noted that the next workshop series will be on screen-printing.

Principal Gonzalez updated the Trustees on staffing, noting that there are only three vacancies left: one vacancy in science and two in special education.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded his report with a brief overview of the data from the Monthly Metrics Report for HUM II. He discussed student enrollment, attendance, and registration.

New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II
Ms. King updated the Trustees on instruction and learning, noting that the end-of-year teacher evaluations have been completed and all returning teachers have received a rating of effective or higher for the 2013-2014 school year. Ms. King noted that the 9th grade scholars and Algebra class were featured on News 12 to describe a project that brings awareness to the community about the high level of trash on the ground. The students collected data from several communities and compared the data to try and understand why there may be more trash on the ground in one community versus another. Ms. King shared the link to the news broadcast for viewing outside of the meeting. Ms. King discussed the New York University’s Early College Program, noting that six of her students have been accepted into the summer program. The students will have the opportunity to attain eight college credits and experience first hand what it’s like to be a college student. She noted that the guidance counselor is currently looking for donors and financial
assistance for those six students. Ms. King also discussed the acceptance of four scholars to the Summer History Scholars Program at Fordham University. She noted that there are no costs associated with the program for students or the school.

Ms. King described school climate, noting several upcoming school events and projects such as the AMS II Greening Project, and the New Student Orientation. Mr. Zach Stellato, AMS II Living Environment Teacher, secured a greening grant “From Grow to Learn.” Students will learn how to cultivate a flower bed and vegetable garden and learn team-building skills. Ms. King noted that the garden will be shared with the Living Environment classes and after-school Cooking Club. Ms. King noted that the New Student Orientation was a success with 200 families in attendance. Over 15 families self-selected to volunteer for the upcoming home visits taking place this summer. The visits will provide an opportunity to partner with families, identify family strengths and needs, and to bring multi-cultural awareness to the faculty at AMS II.

Ms. King described conversations with her teaching staff around concerns regarding time off in the summer. The AMS II teachers voiced concern about time off. Although all New Vision Charter High Schools use the same salary structure and teachers follow the same career ladder, time off is not the same for union and nonunion schools. The New Visions Team and Ms. King are working together on a response to the teachers’ inquiry, as well as a plan of action. Ms. Rodriguez asked for an update about HUM II’s move to unionize and Mr. Chaluisan updated the Trustees around conversations with HUM II’s staff and plans for moving forward.

Ms. King concluded her report with an update on staffing, recruitment and the AMS II Male Leadership Dinner. She also noted major upcoming events such as the AMS II Community and Family Engagement Initiatives for the summer which will include: family home visits, parent workshops supported by the Family School Alliance, and grade team family dinners.

**BOARD BUSINESS**

**NVCHS Team Report**
Ms. Mei, Managing Director of Charter Operations and School Development, updated the Trustees on the major support provided to the New Visions Charter High Schools by the New Visions Charter Team. Ms. Mei noted that this report will be included in the Board Book as part of the regular monthly reports for the Trustees to review and discuss, as necessary, at Board Meetings.

**Insurance Renewal**
Mr. Chaluisan discussed the insurance policies for AMS II and HUM II, noting that it will renew on July 1, 2014, for a one year term. He summarized the terms of the new coverage and pricing.
Ms. Vega put forth a motion to renew the insurance policies for AMS II and HUM II. Ms. Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**Teacher Performance Rubric 2014-2015**
Mr. Jonathan Green, Director of School Leadership, summarized conversations with the Network Inquiry team, Network Instructional Team, and the Teacher Rubric Working Group to review and give input and feedback on the Teacher Performance Rubrics. As a result, elements of the Teacher Performance Rubrics that were revised are; Maximizing Instructional Time, Differentiation and Co-Planning and Teaching.

Mr. Rodriguez put forth a motion to approve the Teacher Performance Rubrics. Ms. Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Lincoln Center Education**
Ms. Grossman recommended that the Lincoln Center Education (LCE) Board of Trustees meet with all the NVCHS Boards of Trustees to discuss the kinds of supports that the LCE Teaching Artists provide in the classroom and across the network of schools. Mr. Chaluisan responded that there are plans to have members of all NVCHS Boards of Trustees meet in September and it would be a good idea to include the LCE Board of Trustees as well.

Ms. Grossman also recommended that LCE support be included in any assessment done by the schools or at the network.

She also recommend that Diane Ramo, Assistant Director at LCE, and the New Visions Director of Instruction, Kami Lewis Levin, coordinate in planning the curriculum for the year.

Mr. Chaluisan responded that he and Ms. Lewis Levin have attended several planning meetings with the Director of LCE and Ms. Ramo. They have prepared a proposal for the coming school year and plan to share it with all Principals. Mr. Chaluisan noted that unlike last year, Principals were able to select works of art to integrate into the curriculum before the start of the school year. Ms. Lewis Levin and the team at LCE have worked together to give Principals options ahead of time and providing one LCE teaching artist per school.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Vega adjourned the meeting at 6:05 p.m.