



## **Namaste Charter School Board Meeting**

*Tuesday, June 20, 2023, 6:00 PM*

3737 S. Paulina  
Chicago, IL 60609

**Present Board Members:** Maricela Herrera, Michel Mahaffey, Jim O'Toole, Jim Scott, Allison Slade

**Absent Board Members:** Martins Adeoye, Luis Narvaez

**Present Via Phone:** No one.

**Guests:** Ruby Arabella, Tori Bohannon, Josefina Calvin, Fabian Garcia, Destiney Higgins, Kathryn Nelson, Emily Ostor, Linda Perales, Anna Ryan, Johnny Serrato, Rocio Tovar

### **Agenda**

#### ***I) Opening Items***

Jim O'Toole

A) Call Meeting to Order

B) Approve Minutes

i) May 16, 2023 – Approval of meeting minutes

Mr. O'Toole called the meeting to order at 6:07pm. Meeting minutes from the previous meeting (May 16, 2023) were not available for approval.

#### ***II) Public Comment/Welcome Guests*** (20 minutes)

Michel Mahaffey

Ms. Mahaffey welcomed guest and explained the rules for public comment. There were three speakers.

#### ***III) State of School*** (60 minutes)

Rocio Tovar

A) School Update

Ms. Tovar began her report highlighting a number of celebrations in the Namaste community including Step Up Day, a celebration of students meeting their NWEA progress goals, a Six Flags trip, and a Cubs game. Namaste's twelfth Eighth grade graduation was held this month. Rudy Flores (Class of 2013) was the guest speaker. Ms. Tovar



also highlighted a Summer at the Library program with the McKinley Park Branch of the Chicago Public Library.

Ms. Tovar then reviewed current enrollment and expected enrollment for the next school year. Currently there are 405 students enrolled. This is a 3 student drop from last month. Projection for next year based on returning students and newly enrolled students is 383 students. One major concern is there are currently only 27 students projected for kindergarten for next year. Work continues on a number of efforts to increase enrollment including work with the new Golub Northwestern Fellow to strategize on new efforts to increase enrollment.

Ms. Urben discussed the results of Upbeat survey. Overall our rating improved from not yet organized to partially organized and improvements were made in 3 of the 5 categories. In general the highest ratings on the survey were in teacher surveyed topic categories and lower ratings were from student based categories. Ms. Urben also iterated that more work is necessary on action plans for improvement in all areas. Mr. Scott asked for a comparison of Namaste's results to comparable Chicago schools and schools across the country. Mr. Scott also asked about the process to identify opportunities for improvement. Mr. O'Toole asked about the overall response rate (93.2%).

#### *IV) Finance (30 minutes)*

Jim Scott

- A) Financial Reports
- B) Draft Budget

Mr. Scott provided an update on the current state of bargaining and the financial impact of the current offer under discussion with the union. He also summarized the impact of declining enrollment on revenue and operating income. Finally Mr. Scott reviewed a preliminary budget based on current estimated enrollment for the upcoming school year.



**V) Development (15 minutes)**

Allison Slade

**A) Development Update**

Ms. Nelson provided a summary of the recent Namaste Lucky Flames Casino Night event.

**VI) Other Business (20 minutes)**

Michel Mahaffey

**A) Officer Elections - Nominees**

- i) President – Jim O'Toole
- ii) Treasurer – Michel Mahaffey
- iii) Secretary – Maricela Herrera

Ms. Mahaffey reviewed the officer slate. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the slate as published. Dr. Slade seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

**B) Proposed 2023/2024 Board Meeting Dates**

- i) August 15, September 26, November 14, January 16, March 19, May 14, June 18

Ms. Mahaffey reviewed the proposed 2023- 2024 school year board meeting schedule. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve the board meeting schedule as published. Mr. O'Toole seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

**B) Board Member Elections**

Ms. Mahaffey then presented the following board members and terms for reelection.

Jim O'Toole – 1 year term

Jim Scott – 1 year term

Dr. Slade made a motion to approve all of the board members and their associated terms. Ms. Herrera seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

**C) 2023/2024 Draft Goals**



Mr. O'Toole reviewed the draft school goals for the upcoming school year. Several changes were suggested. A revised draft of the goals will be discussed at the August board meeting.

**VII) Closed Meeting Session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7)**

A) Vote to go in to closed session

Jim O'Toole

B) Vote to exit closed session

Mr. O'Toole moved to go in to closed session at 8:21p pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1), 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2), and 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(7). Dr. Slade seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

Mr. O'Toole made a motion to exit closed session at 10:19pm. Dr. Slade seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

**VIII) Vote on Matters Discussed in Closed Session (if necessary)**

Jim

O'Toole

Ms. Mahaffey proposed to delegate authority to the bargaining team to execute a memorandum of understanding before June 30, 2023 effectuating the last counteroffer made by the teacher's union bargaining team. Mr. O'Toole seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

Ms. Mahaffey made a motion to approve the compensation recommendations as discussed. Mr. O'Toole seconded the motion.

All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0

**IX) Closing Items**

Jim O'Toole

A) Adjourn Meeting

Mr. O'Toole to adjourn the meeting at 10:21p. Dr. Slade seconded the motion.



All in favor: 5; Opposed: 0; Abstain: 0