



NEO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 18, 2023

The January meeting of the NEO Board of Directors commenced at 8:00 AM.

Present: Amelia Boggess, Mark Lutze (zoom), Shawn Massa, Rachel Scanlon, and Tim Woloszyn

Absent: Isaac Carr, Wynton Jones, Paul Schreiner, and Frances Vega

Also Present: Rebecca Reiner, Jennifer Jennings, Adrienne Carrol, Angella Scott, and Tony Peuquet

1. **Consent Agenda:** Mark moved that the consent agenda be accepted as presented; the motion was seconded with no discussion and approved unanimously.
 - December 21, 2022 Board Meeting Minutes
 - December Director's Report
 - December Docket
 - November Financials
2. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Governance Committee:** Frances was not present to discuss any action taken with or by this committee.
 - b. **Enrollment Committee:** Rachel and Jennifer reported that the committee had not met. Rebecca, Adrienne, and Jennifer relayed information about the recruitment initiatives that are underway. Adult education enrollment remains low; New Vistas High School enrollment continues to grow from September count.
 - c. **Facility and Finance Committees:** These committees will meet in early February and have reports for the February Board meeting.
3. **Quick Updates:**
 - a. **Pending legislation for Funding of 22+ year olds:** Rebecca reported on the pending legislation before the State House (Rep. Behning) and State Senate (Senator Rogers) – both of which are favorable for restoring funding for New Vistas High School students who are over the age of 22. Rebecca expects to have final language of the two bills this week and will share with the board. She will also share links and information about how to advocate support for these bills and other charter school and education-related bills. Rachel will share with the board information about the legislative process.
 - b. **City of Portage ARPA:** Rebecca reported that she had expected the Portage City Council to address the ARPA issue at their January meeting as they had said they would when she presented to them at their December meeting. They did not do anything about this at the January meeting and she has since written the Mayor and the council to ask about this and has not received any response. She will follow-up again with them. She has heard from community members in support of the city funding NEO's projects as a result of the December 25, 2022, NWI Times article.

4. **Creekside Earlh Learning Presentation:** Angella (Angie) Scott, owner of Burns Harbor Early Learning and the slated owner of the future Creekside Early Learning Center, and Tony Peuquet from Chester Construction, present their plans for the development of the 7,000 SF child care center at NEO. Angie gave an overview of her business plan and her experience with running a successful child care business. The Board viewed concept design of the center and asked questions of both. Tim and Shawn suggested that NEO ask Angie for an overview of her financial and business records as part of our due diligence vetting of this partner.
5. **Rising- Up Initiative:** The Board discussed the fundraising for the Rising Up Initiative.
 - They committed to providing Rebecca feedback on the 16-page initiative overview document she emailed to the board by the end of next week. In that time, she will also get feedback from other key stakeholders on the document.
 - Rebecca will also create a one-page document that she and the Board can use as the first step in engaging potential donors. Board members will send her ideas and talking points on this as well (i.e. "child care desert"
 - Jennifer raised an important point about NEO being prepared to address our finances with potential donors. The Board agreed. This is a great task for the Financia advisory committee; Tim can help advise on this.
 - The Board agreed that it needs to meet (via zoom) to review and advise next steps on the Rising Up Fundraising no later than February 1. Shawn will email out some suggested dates and times.
6. **Property Policies:** The NEO Board of Directors received and have reviewed NEO's Property policies. No changes were made.

The meeting concludes at 9:55 AM.

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Reiner

Approved by Mark Lutze, *Secretary:*



2/15/23