



NEO Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 15, 2023

The February 2023 meeting of the NEO Board of Directors commenced at 8:03 AM at the NEO Center.

Present: Amelia Bogges, Wynton Jones (tardy), Mark Lutze, Shawn Massa (zoom), Rachel Scanlon, Paul Schreiner, Frances Vega, Tim Woloszyn

Absent: Isaac Carr

Also Present: Rebecca Reiner, Jennifer Jennings, Dante Pryor, and David Plesac

1. Consent Agenda: Mark moved that the consent agenda be approved. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. The consent agenda included:

- January 18, 2023, Board Meeting Minutes
- December 2022 Financial Statements
- January 2023 Docket
- January 2023 Director's Report

2. Quick Updates

- Rebecca reported on Senate Bill 443 that will restore funding for students over the age of 22.
- Rachel shared an overview of the legislative process. One point of interest is a bill to address ration of school counselors to students. Currently, the student to counselor ratio in Indiana is 600:1. In NWI, it is 800:1. This is an important "talking point" about New Vistas that has a ratio of 175:1!
- The board discussed the Rise Up Campaign to raise funds for the onsite child care center
- Dave Pleasac, New Vistas' Assistant Principal, and Dante Pryor, New Vistas' Principal, provided the Board with updated on initiatives to address student attendance. A lively discussion followed. (Discussion notes are attached)

3. 2023-2024 School Calendar Rebecca presented the proposed school calendar for School Year (SY) 2023-2024. Mark identified numerous edits. Tim moved that the Board approved the 2023-2024 New Vistas High School Calendar with edits. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

4. Board Committee Reports

- **Finance Committee:** Jennifer reported that the Finance Committee, Allan Gabrielle, Isaac Carr and herself, along with Rebcca, met on Friday, February 10th and she shared an overview of the identified plan of action (Notes attached)
- **Facility Committee:** Paul reported that he and the Chester team, along with Rebecca, met to discuss timeline of work on the child care and training academy projects. Phase One of the Training Academy build out is close to being completed. All other plans for space rest with the ability of NEO to secure a significant donation (over one million dollars) to proceed with the child care project as proposed.
- **Governance Committee:** Frances reported that she and Amelia met by phone to discuss plans to address the following tasks that they will be tackling this month:
 - o Evaluation of Executive Director
 - o Board Commitments

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- Board Recruitment and Onboarding
- **Student Engagement Committee:** Jennifer reported that the committee met on Monday, February 13. (Neither Wynton nor Rachel was able to attend). The biggest initiative underway is a planned 8th Grade Visit Day scheduled for mid-May. Rebecca and Jennifer gave kudos to Collin Majszak for his recruitment efforts. February's high school enrollment showed an increase of 30 students from September. This is double the previous average gains in this timeframe.

Paul raised Rebecca's pending retirement in two years and the need for a plan for her replacement.

The Board discussed the need to "formalize" our advisory committees with expectations for meeting schedules, tasks, responsibilities, etc. Tim and Amelia both agreed that the committees include, when appropriate and possible, board representation, but that the "lead" of the committee does not need to be that board member. Rebecca stressed that the committees' tasks and goals should be updated annually to align with organization plans, goals, and priorities. Amelia will review this at the April Board Meeting.

5. Strategic Plan Work: Three members of the Friday team led the Board in work around the rebranding and messaging work underway. This work will include specific messaging and communication plans around the variety of targeted populations served by NEO. This language will be integrated into NEO's Website, print material, and social media campaigns as well as talking points to be used by the Board, staff and other NEO ambassadors!

6. Other: Rebecca congratulated Frances on her successful completion of her Harvard Course Work. She reminded the Board it is okay now to use "GED" since the state IS returning to the GED as a test for the State's High School Equivalency (HSE) diploma.

Adjournment: Mark mover to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 AM. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by Rebecca Reimer

Approved by Mark Lutze, *Secretary:*

 3/15/23