

New Dimensions High School Board Meeting Minutes Jan 31,2024

4900 Old Pleasant Hill Road

Kissimmee, FL, 34759

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 AM. Attendees were Keith Laytham, Dr. Jackie Grimm, Dr. Tina Cafiereo, Lynn Sparrock, Mike Alfery, Jeremy Mezzina. Absent were Wendy Farrell and Cynthia Navarro. Martha Moyano arrived at 7:55.

The minutes from the October meeting were reviewed and approved.

Former Board Chair/Member Ryan Adams attended the Public Comment section and was given a token of appreciation for his years of service to the school.

Mike reviewed the Board training update. All current Board members were up to date with training requirements. Our NDHS Banker Lauren Thrasher of Truist spoke to the board providing his view of the school financial situation. He stated the current bank balances for the school far exceeded the minimums required to be in compliance with our debts. He stated that the minimum amount required based on our current mortgages would be 10% of our outstanding mortgages and that our current balance would more than cover that.

Director of Instruction Jeremy Mezzina presented the school plan to restore us to A status. His presentation is available for inspection. He stated that out of a current grading scale of 600 total points we missed getting an A rating by a total of 4 points. The areas of biggest testing shortfall were in the math Algebra and Geometry subjects. Remedial action has already been taken to address by bringing on board a new math teacher who he feels confident will be able to raise the achievement level of our students. He also described plans to add additional tutoring classes for our entire student body to bring all the lower grades up. A question was asked as to why all our school test scores seemed to be lower across the board than in years past? The answer given was that due to the pandemic restrictions we had not recently been able to look at background information to make certain that all accepted students were as high performing as in the past. He stated that recent agreements allowing us to better screen our applicants along with our marketing plans to increase the number and quality of our applicants should address this problem.

Recent school exam scores were reviewed for the Board. The recent scores showed much improvement over last years scores.

Director of Operations Mike Alfery presented the current budget status. The detailed numbers he presented are available for inspection. The bottom line is that we are projecting to have a slight budget surplus for the current year.

A concern described by Mr Alfery is that like other schools nationwide the government grant money received due to Covid programs would be ending at the end of this school year. He described our plan to trim our budget to make up for this loss of revenue by a combination of

the elimination of a temporary staffing position and cutting back on some expenses for materials which he felt would no longer be necessary. In combination with these cutbacks, he also described our school plan to increase our student enrollment number by adding a marketing plan to better advertise our school using a combination of better social media presence, advertising of the school on our website, local newspapers and by using direct mail. He stated that to support this marketing campaign he would be reassigning existing school personnel to perform new duties and paying for the campaign from our existing revenues. He stated that he viewed this as a multi semester plan. He said he felt that the plan could be paid for from existing revenues but that there may be a need for him to request board future approval for using existing reserves to pay for the start up costs for these programs.

Mr Mezzina then spoke about his plan to use the new marketing campaign to increase the level of new student admissions to help facilitate the raising of our school ranking not simply to a A status but to a high A status.

Sadly, Board member Jany Seibane had submitted her resignation due to business conflicts. The board voted to accept her resignation. The Boad also voted to formally approve Martha Moyano as our newest Board Member.

He meeting was voted to adjourn at 9:10 AM.