

MINUTES
NEW DIMENSIONS BOARD OF DIRECTORS
04/22/26

Time: 7.30am

In attendance: Mike Alfery, Jeremy Mezzina, Wendy Farrell.

Via Zoom: Sandie Martinez, Lynn Sporrack, Jessica Vazquez (SDOC)

Absent: Luciana Oliver (sent apologies in advance), Kulsom Khanani.

The meeting was called to order by Wendy Farrell at 7.30am. No members of the public were present so no public comment.

Approval of minutes - Minutes were approved. Motion Sandi Martinez, second Lynn Sparrock, all in favor.

Bylaws Review - Amendments were agreed in principle at our previous meeting but are now inserted into the by-laws document for approval. Motion Lynn Sparrock, second Sandi Martinez, all in favor.

HCA Board Member - With Kulsom Khanani having left HCA Poinciana it was agreed that Wendy will approach Edith Silva-Gotay the new VP of HR who started in March at HCA Poinciana to replace Kulsom. Wendy will be meeting Edith on Friday April 24.

Director of Operations Update and Budget approval

Budget Review - Mr. Alfery explained that he projects the budget will be tight but we will hit the budget with a positive balance (does not include capital improvements/campus renovations).

Fiscal Items of note

Allocation of Local Capital Improvement Revenue (LCIR) increased from \$65,425 to \$107,543 because of an increase in per student funding and the phase in program of the schools proportional funding amount (year 3 of 5 at 60%).

Funding change for additional FTE for AP, DE and CTE. The model for funding this has changed from an earned partition of the base FTE for each of the accomplishments cited above to a fixed 'pool' of money for the state which was proportionally allocated to the school districts based on the number of 'additional FTE' earned. It is now a capped pool everyone is fighting for.

Dual Enrollment expenses increased as more students qualified to participate in the program than was budgeted for, which is a good thing.

More was spent on enrollment advertising as Osceola County overall is projected to have a decline in enrollment. Expenses included a new promotional video on the school website and 20,000 EDDM (every door, direct mail) mailers.

A portion of these costs will be offset by vendor fees collected for the May Memorial Day event.

We have just over \$2,850,000 in the bank when we adjust for outstanding payments. There are a few additional small capital expenses still to be actioned. We continue to exceed the minimum threshold set by the BOD of \$1,500,000 in the bank.

The bottom line for the budget remains unchanged; there was just movement of money from and to different line items.

A motion was made by Lynn Sporrack, a second by Sandi Martinez and all in favor to accept the amended budget as presented.

School Capacity

A motion was made by Lynn Sporrack, second by Wendy Farrell, and all in favor to keep the school capacity number at 500. We are currently at 437.

Renaming of Auditorium/ Academic Awards Event

4/23/26 - starting at 4.45pm

Past School Founders Dr. Grimm and Dr. Cafiero will attend. Current and past Board members, Directors, past teachers and current teachers will also attend.

Southstate Bank are sponsoring the refreshments for the event and Signature Promotions sponsored an embossed journal to commemorate the event.

Valencia College DE contract update

Mr. Alfors discovered an Early College program for the school to operate with Valencia College that gives us additional state funding for students dual enrolled. It closely mirrors our current contract with Valencia. All DE families will sign a contract that stipulates students must maintain a 2.0 Valencia GPA to remain in the program. The school will create course pathways for each student and monitor their progress, notifying families if they become in jeopardy of being unenrolled. This new contract and program will take place Jan 1 2027. NDHS has worked closely with Edna Miller, Assistant VP of Enrollment Management & Partnerships on the articulation agreement.

Edits and drafts are complete. Final version is to be signed by Valencia then NDHS and submitted to Florida Dept of Education.

Graduation - Set for May 19th 6.00pm at Living Water Fellowship Church. Everything has been ordered and organized. It will be live streamed. Mr.Dunn will be the keynote speaker and Wendy Farrell will do the introduction.

Director of Instruction Update

Dual Enrolment - Mr. Mezzina shared that dual enrolment figures show growth. In January 2023 there were 61 students enrolled. As of January 2026 we have 118. In August 2025 we had 87 and in August 2026 we will have 102. We have surpassed the goal set in 2024 of 100. The program has had a 93% increase in participation over a 3 year period. 27% of the student population is enrolled in DE.

Recruitment

As of 4/21/26 the school had 133 applicants and 80 have been accepted. This compares to the same time last year of 167 applicants and 118 accepted.

Lynn Spoorack asked about the reason for low enrollment. Mr. Mezzina explained about the school choice/voucher program which has given parents freedom to send their kids to any school, private, church, online or out of home zone. Sandi Martinez gave input that it isn't as bad as in Orange County where they are closing some schools, but could certainly lead to reduction in staffing. She also mentioned that private schools can have agreements with colleges for DE. 2024-2045 was the peak for high school senior numbers and will now decline through 2041.

Mr. Mezzina is visiting local realtor and leasing offices and many have been glad to have the school information to put in their packs and out on display (1000 EDDM cards given out). The school has done a large EDDM mailing campaign to North Poinciana and South Poinciana is going out this week. 18,000 mailers total. Tours of the school have also been successful with the last one on March 30th being attended by 48 students and their parents.

It was suggested to try to get Positively Osceola to cover the Auditorium renaming event and also the May event as they are interested in covering the Poinciana Community. Lynn Sporrack suggested looking at APV newsletter and Sandi Martinez suggested Webpa Orlando, a TV station to help get the word out about the school.

Winter Testing Data

Data looks similar to our performance as of the Winter of the 2024-2025 school year. Biology EOC continues to excel coupled with excellent results for the U.S. History EOC and Reading Retakes. Wendy Farrell asked for the reasons behind the 10th grade reading PM2 drop and the reasoning is that most 10th graders were not enrolled in English II in the Winter when they took this exam. 90 Sophomores are enrolled in the Spring vs 9 in the Fall. Last year that split was 68 vs 22. Students should do better on the retakes once they take the class.

Any other business

Buses - The school is looking to purchase newer school buses at auction. The budget is \$150,000 for 3 buses. Mr. Alfors has seen three 2018 buses at an Orange County School district bus auction. Orange County buses are newer with less mileage as they retire them earlier than other districts. They have air conditioning. The school would look to retire three old 2007 buses without AC which now constantly have issues and are costing money. They should also get better gas mileage. Mr. Alfors is also going to look into dash cameras for both driver and student safety. An update will be provided at the next board meeting.

Board Recruitment - Wendy Farrell mentioned that we continue to seek additional board members so please let her know if you have anyone in mind.

The Poinciana Council Scholarship - Wendy Farrell mentioned that NDHS student winner Angelina Angervil attended the scholarship lunch yesterday with her Mum and Ms. Pavon. The Council selected five \$1000 winners. Angelina was the only applicant from the school, we would like to have more students apply next year.

Future Board meeting dates: Wednesday, June 24th, 8.30am

PLEASE let me know if this date clashes with any of the Osceola Chamber Leadership dates.

Motion to adjourn 8.40am

MInutes prepared by Wendy Farrell - 04/23/26