

NBFA Board of Directors Meeting

April 19, 2016

Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Board: David Schlakman, Kevin Knight, Mary Humphries, David Hunter, Christine King, Paul Myerson, Dr. Melissa Jenkins, Sabita Kanhai, Margaret Walker and Claire Foerster (via phone).

Staff: Ronelle Swagerty, Xiomara Martinez, Ajumoke Nathan, James Page, Lauren Seymour, Valore Turner and Quentin Ball.

The meeting was called to order at 4:20 pm by David Schlakman, president. There were no public comments.

Mr. Schlakman announced the resignation of Lisa Callahan from the Board of Directors.

Ms. Sabita Kanhai shared that she is contending with serious health issues, which have negatively impacted her board meeting attendance. However, she explained that she is determined to remain an active member of the board.

Action Items:

1. Motion to elect Dr. Melissa Jenkins, a representative of the Bridgeport Board of Education, to the NBFA Board for a 3-year term ending June 30,2018: David Hunter 1st, Kevin Knight 2nd, Unanimous
2. Motion to approve 02/23/2016 meeting minutes: David Hunter 1st, Kevin Knight 2nd, Unanimous, Sabita Kanhai abstained.
3. Motion to approve revisions to Article II, Section 2.5 of the NBFA By-Laws concerning the Election of Directors: David Hunter 1st, Paul Myerson 2nd, Unanimous
4. Motion for NBFA to adopt a progressive model of education: David Hunter 1st, Christine King 2nd, Unanimous

Discussion Items:

1. Revisions To The NBFA By-Laws. Kevin Knight presented the Board with suggested revisions to Article II, Section 2.5 Election of Directors. The Governance Committee recommended that a) when the number of directors reaches 12 or more, new members would be on boarded at each Annual Meeting of the Board, held in June and b) when the number of directors is below 12, new directors can be added to the Board at any time during the year following the process to fill board vacancies in Section C of the by-laws. After some discussion, the Board decided to change the number from 12 to 15 members.
2. NBFA's Theory of Change. Ronelle Swagerty showed the board two clips from a filled called, "A Year at Mission Hill" as a visual representation of the hands-on learning environment proposed in NBFA's

updated blueprint. “A blueprint for expanding New Beginnings Family Academy’s capacity to educate poverty-impacted children under a progressive education model,” outlines 10 new strategic goals and objectives to complete the school’s shift to social emotional learning practices. A robust discussion ensued, which included members of the Board expressing concerns about potential long-term costs. Some suggestions included creating a timeline/progression for milestones and having the changes videotaped. After much discourse, the Board supported the move to a progressive model with emotionally responsive practice but decided it would address amendments to the mission statement at a subsequent meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m. by David Schlakman.

Respectfully Submitted,

Xiomara Martinez,
Recording Secretary