

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Eugenio Maria de Hostos Charter School Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. Board Chairman Julio Vázquez called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present: Eugenio Marlin, Ryan Caster, Dr. Marcia DeJesús-Rueff, Miguel Meléndez, Caroline Rodriguez, Dr. Miriam Vázquez, Julio Vázquez, and Angélica Pérez-Delgado (unable to vote).

Board Members Present - Absent:

Rosemary Johnson, and Gloria Soldevila

School Staff & Others Present:

Sandra Chevalier-Blackman, Nikki Kersbergen, Wanda Serrano, Leslie Rivera, Amy Schiavi, John Harris, James Riley, Vincent Alexander, Demond Stewart, and Yasmine Rodriguez.

MISSION MOMENT:

The Mission Moment was brought to us by our Athletic Director, Mr. Stewart. At EMHCS students must maintain respectable grades - have an overall GPA of 3.0 and no failing classes to be a student-athlete. This year EMHCS was able to provide two student-athletes with a \$1,000 scholarship each. Yasmine Rodriguez is one of the scholarship recipients. She has the highest GPA of 96 at the high school; she will be attending the University of Rochester on a full scholarship.

The **2024-2025** sports program will consist of the following:

Fall Sports 2024

- Modified, Junior, & Varsity Girls Volleyball
- Cross Country
- EMHCS & Rochester Prep JV & Varsity Football
- Coed Flag Football
- Martial Art
- Esport
- EMHCS Youth Sports Fall Program (Grades K-6)

Winter Sports 2024

- Modified & Varsity Girls Basketball
- Junior Varsity & Varsity Boys Basketball
- Varsity Boys and Girls Indoor Track and Field
- EMHCS Youth Basketball Program (Grades K-6)

Spring Sports 2025

- Modified & Varsity Boys Baseball
- Modified & Varsity Girls Baseball
- Modified Track and Field
- Varsity Girls Flag Football
- Varsity Track and field
- EMHCS Youth Baseball and Softball Program (Grades K-6)

PUBLIC INPUT:

No public input.

CHAIRMAN REPORT:

Board Retreat

- Last month's board retreat was canceled due to the many events and meetings that made it difficult for board members to attend.
- A meeting invite will go out for the 1st week of August.

Building Committee

- The Building Committee will be moved to 11:00 am instead of 10:00 am due to two trustees having work commitments during that time.
- The meeting invites will be changed and reflect the new time beginning July.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT:

Enrollment:

- Enrollment for May 992 students
- Enrollment for June 995 students

Attendance:

- April's attendance averaged 86%, and May's 84%.

The Data Dashboard that was presented during the meeting included the following:

- K-8: Fastbridge 3rd Diagnostic Comparison
- 9-12: Benchmarks Assessments 3 Comparison
- 2020 Cohort Accountability

Operations:

Campus Expansion Project

- The city approved all variances for the expansion project during last month's meeting.
- The construction documents need to be completed by August 1st.
 - Building Permit – September 1st
- Work on the Church will begin on July 1st

- 1089 Joseph Avenue will have some renovations of the roof, temporary parking, etc.
- Groundbreaking to begin September 2024
- Completion dates will be late 2025 – early 2026
- Tenant at 1119 will be out by October 1st – the lease has been amended.

COVID-19

- 53 total cases to date

ELT Updates:

Before School:

- Before school at the Zimbrich Campus, 77 students are enrolled, with 89% attendance.

After School

- After School at the Zimbrich Campus, 76 students enrolled with 95% attendance
- After School at the Joseph Campus, 20 students enrolled with 90% attendance

Summer School Enrollment

- Kindergarten - 19 students
- 1st grade - 19 students
- 2nd grade – 16 students
- 3rd grade – 23 students
- 4th grade – 12 students
- 5th grade – 13 students
- 6th grade – 7 students
- 7th grade – 14 students

PTO

- The PTO end-of-the-year celebration was a success. Parents were honored for their hard work and dedication throughout the school year. There were many activities, games, and food for all.
- 45 families attended

CEO Updates:

Items of Discussion:

- Long Term Suspensions
- Preparation for the SUNY Renewal and getting all the documents ready for submission.
- Summer Planning
- Human Resources – getting positions filled for the new school year
- Celebrations & Scholarship Receptions
 - National Honor Society
 - Ibero Scholarship

- Latino Rotary Scholarship
- Black Scholars Ceremony
- Sports Banquet
- Senior Breakfast
- Moody's Presentation – the school has been meeting with the rating agency Moody to get a better credit score for the school to obtain a lower interest rate for the bonds for the Joseph Campus Expansion Project.

Building Committee:

There is no current update.

ACADEMIC COMMITTEE REPORT:

Three items of discussion:

- Parent Involvement
 - Explaining expectations to parents to ensure good habits for students
- Motivation
 - Involving parents to have students show up for the assessments, exams, etc.
 - Improvement in attendance
- Benchmark @ High School
 - Getting students motivated and improving attendance for assessment-taking
 - Take less time for benchmarks and more time for classroom instruction

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE MANAGER REPORT/FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Finance Committee reviewed some updates to the Fiscal Policy and Procedure Manual. The Finance Committee passed a motion to make those changes and will present it to the full board for approval.

Mr. Caster will reach out to Ms. Serrano to make a joint meeting for the Finance and Building Committee.

Financial Reports

May's finance reports were presented for approval. Mr. Meléndez moved the motion, and Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

The three items that were added/amended to the Fiscal Policy & Procedures are the following:

- Changes in title from Executive Director to CEO
- Added the New Purchasing Procedure – 3-tier approval process
- Credit Card Policy – policy and procedures for obtaining and using the school's credit card.

The Fiscal Policy & Procedure Manual was updated and presented for approval. Mr. Meléndez moved the motion, and Ms. Rodriguez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

May's board meeting minutes were presented for approval. Dr. DeJesús-Rueff moved the motion, and Dr. Vázquez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

April's finance reports were presented for approval. Mr. Caster moved the motion, and Mr. Meléndez seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

An Enrollment and Admissions Policy was added to the Parent/Student Handbook and presented for approval. The edit will be made by removing Buffalo Schools from the 2nd paragraph. Mr. Meléndez moved the motion, and Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

A Health Policy was added to the Parent/Student Handbook and presented for approval. Mr. Caster moved the motion, and Mr. Meléndez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Organizational Chart was updated and presented for approval. Dr. Vázquez moved the motion, and Ms. Rodriguez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Title IX clause was added to the Employee Handbook and the Parent/Student Handbook and was presented for approval. The edit will be made under the section labeled Ms. Martinez we will change the word "district" to "school" to coincide with the rest of the document. Mr. Meléndez moved the motion, and Dr. Vázquez seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. Change to the school's compliance.

The DASA Manual was updated and presented for approval. Dr. Vázquez moved the motion, and Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Fingerprint verbiage in the Employee Handbook was updated and presented for approval. Mr. Meléndez and Dr. Vázquez. Moved the motion, and seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Personnel Committee:

- Positions Available:
 - Zimbrich Campus – Elementary – 8 positions
 - Joseph Campus – Middle – 3 positions
 - Kodak Campus – High School – 3 positions

Interviews are being conducted and some positions have been filled.

Old Business

No old business.

New Business

Dr. Vázquez requested that a committee be established to plan the school's 25th anniversary celebration for the Spring of 2025. Ms. Chevalier-Blackman suggested that we also celebrate that we will also have completed our fifth charter term.

Executive Session

Mr. Vázquez requested a motion to go into Executive Session. Dr. DeJesús-Rueff motioned, and Mr. Meléndez seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. The executive session was adjourned and board members returned to the board meeting.

Mr. Meléndez moved that the students, involved in fighting and disrupting the educational process, will be allowed to participate in the graduating ceremony pending that the students and their families meet with the school's leadership and agree to the set rules of engagement. The parents and the students must sign the document provided by the CEO indicating that they understand and agree to the set terms for participation in the graduating ceremony. Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to discuss, Mr. Vázquez called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rodriguez moved the motion and Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, July 30, 2024. It will be at the Administrative Office, 977 Joseph Avenue, conference room, Rochester, NY 14621.

Respectfully submitted,

Angélica Pérez-Delgado
Board Secretary