

**New Dawn Charter Schools Board of Trustees  
February 24, 2026**

**11:00 a.m.: Board Meeting Minutes**

**New Dawn Charter High School  
242 Hoyt Street  
Brooklyn, NY 11217**

**New Dawn Charter High School II  
89-25 161st Street  
Jamaica, NY 11432  
347-505-9101**

**Board Members present:** Mr. Ronald Tabano, Chairperson, Brian Baer, Secretary, Mr. Jeffrey Casio, ViceChair, Mr. Daniel Lewis, board member.

**Board Members Absent:**

**Staff Members/ Visitors Present:** NDCS: Dr. Sara Asmussen, CEO; Mr. Steve Ramkissoo, CFO; Mr. Jose Obregon, COO; and Ms. Emily Predmore, Data Specialist

**I. Executive Session**

Mr. Tabano welcomed all the board members to the meeting and then asked if there was a motion to accept the February 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting agenda.

**II. Resolution: February 2026 Agenda—Mr. Ronald Tabano**

**Motion:** Mr. Brian Baer motioned to accept and approve the February 2026 Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

**Motion Seconded:** Mr. Jeffrey Casio seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept and approve the February 2026 Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the January 2026 Board minutes.

**III. Resolution: January 2026 Minutes—Mr. Ronald Tabano**

**Motion:** Mr. Jeffrey Casio motioned to accept and approve the January 2026 Board of Trustees' minutes.

**Motion Seconded:** Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept and approve January 2026 Board of Trustees minutes.

**IV. Financials—Mr. Steve Ramkissoon**  
**Benchmark 4: Financial Condition**  
**Benchmark 5: Financial Management**

Mr. Ramkissoon informed the board members that the Brooklyn school surpassed the three hundred ten (310) student enrollment number that was projected. He also stated that the school has and has three hundred thirty-six (336) students enrolled and that student recruitment continues at the Brooklyn school. Mr. Ramkissoon further stated that he believes that the Brooklyn school will surpass the projected budget numbers. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that SPED enrollment is higher than projected, increasing the budget. Mr. Ramkissoon stated that he saw nothing of concern affecting the Brooklyn school budget and asked if the board members had any questions regarding the Brooklyn school. There were no questions.

For the Queens school, Mr. Ramkissoon stated that there were three hundred forty-seven (347) students enrolled versus the three hundred fifty (350) students that were projected. He also stated that, as with the Brooklyn school, the number of SPED students enrolled is higher than forecasted. He stated that the Queens school is now above the budgeted numbers. Mr. Ramkissoon lastly stated that he saw no red flags concerning the Queens school and asked the board members if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the January 2026 financials.

**a. Resolution: Monthly Financials**

**Motion:** Mr. Jeffrey Casio motioned to accept and approve the January 2026 financials.

**Motion Seconded:** Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept and approve the January 2026 financials.

Mr. Tabano confirmed with the board members if the Security contract was discussed during the Executive Session. All the board members confirmed that it was discussed. Mr. Tabano also asked if there was anything further that needed to be discussed concerning the security contract. All the board members confirmed that there was nothing further that needed to be discussed. Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the security contract.

**b. Resolution: Security Contract**

**Motion:** Mr. Brian Baer motioned to accept and approve the security contract.

**Motion Seconded:** Mr. Jeffrey Casio seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept and approve the security contract.

**IV. Contracts/Policies—Dr. Sara Asmussen**  
**Benchmark 1: Student Performance**  
**Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning**  
**Benchmark 5: Financial Management**  
**Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance**

Mr. Obregon informed the board members that both schools have a need for additional Chromebooks since it is now at least three (3) to four (4) years since the last purchase of such devices. Mr. Obregon also stated that three (3) to four (4) years is the approximate life expectancy for these devices and that he obtained three (3) separate quotes from Dell, Inc. Staples Co, and Global Computer Co. for one hundred (100) devices of which fifty (50) will go to each school. Mr. Obregon confirmed that Global Computer, Co. has offered the best price and that he recommended going with Global Computer Inc.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a resolution to accept and approve the purchase of one hundred Chromebooks from Global Computer Co. as Mr. Obregon had recommended.

**a. Resolution: Chromebooks**

**Motion:** Mr. Brian Baer motioned to accept and approve the purchase of one hundred Chromebooks from Global Computer Co.

**Motion Seconded:** Mr. Jeffrey Casio seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board voted unanimously to accept and approve the purchase of one hundred (one hundred) Chromebooks from Global Computer Co.

Mr. Brian Baer explained to the board members that when the kitchen renovation at the Queen's school was done, it required the rehabilitation of the entire fire alarm system for the building. Mr. Baer also stated that Barone Management obtained two (2) quotes for the installation of a new fire alarm system. Mr. Baer stated that the two quotes numbered in the three hundred thousand (300K) to three hundred-fifty (350K) dollar range. A third company, Linkage Alarm Co., was able to offer the same alarm system installed in the approximate two hundred thirty (230K) to two hundred fifty (250K) dollar range even if a new generator or a UPS system needed to be installed. Mr. Baer also stated that what is needed to begin this project is the completion of the design work so that FDNY can approve the installation. Mr. Baer further stated that subsequently, he was presenting to the board members, for their approval, the design work proposal.

Mr. Tabano asked Mr. Baer why Barone's quotes are so high compared to the Linkage quote. He replied that he could see no reason why they were so expensive. Mr. Tabano asked the board members if there were any questions for Mr. Baer. There were no questions. Mr. Baer then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the Queens Fire Alarm mapping proposal.

**b. Resolution: Queens Fire Alarm mapping**

**Motion:** Mr. Jeffrey Casio motioned to accept and approve the Queens Fire alarm mapping proposal.

**Motion Seconded:** Mr. Daniel Lewis seconded the motion.

**Vote:** The board voted to accept and approve the Queens Fire alarm mapping proposal.

Mr. Baer abstained from voting.

**V. Staff Recruitment—Ms. Dominique Fuentes  
Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning**

**a. Brooklyn: Aspiring Teacher**

Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that the newly hired aspiring teacher at the Brooklyn school unexpectedly resigned. Consequently, the school is looking for another candidate to fill that vacant position.

**b. Queens: 1 SPED**

Dr. Asmussen informed the board that the Queens school hired an excellent behavioral specialist. The new behavioral specialist is currently onboarding at the Brooklyn school this week and is working with Ms. Spragion to understand the expectations for the position. Dr. Asmussen further stated that there are two (2) SPED teacher positions open at the Queens school, but what is likely to happen is that one (1) SPED teacher and one (1) ELL teacher will be hired. Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that a new speech language pathologist has started in Brooklyn and that she is still looking for a speech language pathologist for Queens.

Mr. Tabano asked if there were any questions for Dr. Asmussen. There were no questions.

**VI. Student Recruitment—Mr. Steve Ramkissoon/Mr. Ash Abraham  
Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance  
Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity**

**a. Queens Closed**

Mr. Ramkissoon confirmed that the Queens school has met the enrollment numbers and that student recruiting is on pause.

**b. Brooklyn Ongoing**

Mr. Ramkissoon stated that recruiting in Brooklyn continues and that new enrollments will start in the summer or in September 2026.

Dr. Asmussen informed the board that there are several students waiting to be discharged, but the NYC DOE is not processing discharges. Dr. Asmussen also confirmed that neither school is billing for these students. Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that this is the first year since NDCHS opened, since the school has met its full numbers on BEDS Day. Dr. Asmussen further stated that this year, for the first time, NDCS almost achieved three hundred fifty (350) students at both schools. Dr. Asmussen further stated that the reason this is important is because it creates such a behavioral difference when teaching in a school that does not have a new student walking into classrooms every day. Dr. Asmussen explained that if everybody is enrolled by October, teachers do not have to play catch up with the November, December, and January enrollees. Dr. Asmussen further stated that this is the first year the school has been able to do this and that she has seen a significant behavioral change. Dr. Asmussen stated that there are fewer classroom disruptions having a stable student population. Going forward, the schools are going to try hard to make sure that they have as many kids as possible by BEDS Day going forward.

## **VII. Building Renovation Updates—Mr. Brian Baer, Mr. Jose Obregon**

### **a. COO updates**

Mr. Brian Baer reported that the new filing has changes which include the current engineer that is employed by CFS is now submitted to FDNY along with the as-builts. Mr. Baer also stated that there are still some challenges with the plumber to get the sign off on the new water service. Mr. Baer further stated that he and Mr. Obregon are trying to put pressure on them to make that all happen.

### **b. Brooklyn Roof**

Mr. Baer stated that until the Brooklyn school gets the final COO, not much of anything can be done on the roof renovations. Nevertheless, Mr. Baer stated that everything is all queued up and ready to go as soon as the final COO is obtained.

### **c. Queens Kitchen**

Mr. Baer stated that the fire alarm project that he spoke about previously is most important to finish that project.

## **VIII. New Business**

### **a. Board Elections**

Dr. Asmussen informed the board that she will get the board evaluation and her evaluation out to all the board members and that there will be board elections next month. Dr. Asmussen also stated that, unfortunately, the board will need another Treasurer.

### **b. Other Annual Activities**

Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that she is going through all school policies and determining which ones need to be updated. She also informed the board members that there are some changes in the time off law for New York City. Therefore, Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that there is a need to update the personnel handbook. Considering this, Dr. Asmussen stated that she has decided to revise the whole handbook rather than just that one section, doing a full review to make sure that everything is aligned. Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that, as a result, they will be getting a lot of policies to read. Dr. Asmussen also stated that Mr. Obregon will be sending out various Docu-Sign notifications regarding the annual report.

Mr. Obregon then stated that he wanted to acknowledge Mr. Casio, who informed him of the Global Computer Sales company that was a cost saver compared to the other companies.

Dr. Asmussen also thanked Mr. Casio for the YMCA project that now enables Queens students to utilize the YMCA facilities near the school and engage in activities such as training on how to be a referee. There are approximately forty (40) to fifty (50) students who participate each week in these activities and other career training activities. Dr. Asmussen stated that the students love this opportunity and are enthusiastic about it.

#### **IX. Public Comment**

No public comment was made.

#### **X. Adjournment**

The board decided to meet again on Tuesday March 24, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. The board meeting was adjourned at 11:36 A.M.