

New Dawn Charter Schools Board of Trustees

June 16, 2026

12:00 p.m.: Board Meeting Minutes

12:30 p.m.: Evaluation

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

**New Dawn Charter High School II
89-25 161st Street
Jamaica, NY 11432
547-505-9101**

Board Members present: Mr. Ronald Tabano, Chairperson, Mr. Brian Baer, Secretary, Mr. Jeffrey Casio, Board member, Ms. Susan Tenner, Board Member

Board Members Absent: Mr. Daniel Lewis, board member.

Staff Members/ Visitors Present: NDCS: Dr. Sara Asmussen, CEO; Mr. Steve Ramkissoon, CFO; Ms. Dominique Fuentes, CHRO, Dr. Lisa DiGaudio, CAO, Ms. Emily Predmore, Data Specialist; NDCHS: Ms. Janisha Crawley, Acting Principal.

General Meeting

Mr. Tabano welcomed all the board members and staff members to the June 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. He then asked if there was a motion to accept and approve the June 2026 Agenda.

I. Resolution: June 2026 Agenda—Mr. Ronald Tabano

Motion: Mr. Jeffrey Casio motioned to accept and approve the June 2026 Board of Trustees meeting agenda.

Motion Seconded: Ms. Susan Tenner seconded the motion.

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

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

II. Resolution: May 2026 Board meeting Minutes—Mr. Ronald Tabano

Motion: Mr. Brian Baer motioned to accept and approve the May 2026 Board of Trustees minutes.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Jeffrey Casio seconded the motion.

Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept and approve June 2026 Board of Trustees minutes

III. Financials—Mr. Steve Ramkissoon

Benchmark 4: Financial Condition

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

a. Monthly Financials—Tabled until July 2026 meeting

Mr. Ramkissoon informed the board members that he has not closed the books for the 2026 fiscal year yet, but both schools are on track to stay within their projected budgets. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that he will send the board members the results of the yearly audit when they are complete.

IV. Contracts/Policies—Various

Benchmark 1: Student Performance

Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

Benchmark 5: Financial Management

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

No contracts were up for renewal.

V. LTW Grant Update—Dr. Sara Asmussen

Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that the LTW grant was submitted, and that it looks good, although there was a concern regarding whether New Dawn was eligible for the grant. Dr. Asmussen clarified that New Dawn Charter Schools is a not-for-profit organization which makes it eligible to receive the grant. Dr. Asmussen also stated that she received great recommendations from organizations including New Dawn's social service providers and from J.V. Wildcat. Dr. Asmussen also explained that the grant will help pay the minimum wage for the students who are doing internships. Dr. Asmussen stated that this will help motivate the students to do better and participate more. Ms. Tenner asked if the grant was a paid internship grant and Dr. Asmussen confirmed that it was. Dr. Asmussen further stated that this grant will elevate pay to the minimum wage, which is \$17. an hour which will make a huge difference for the students. Dr. Asmussen also stated that the grant will also pay for all the internship staff, college-readiness staff, and culinary staff as well.

Mr. Tabano stated that, historically, the grant was not open to charter schools and this is the first time that the grant is open to charter schools, so it is a monumental occasion. Mr. Tabano further stated that Directors from all the transfer schools have reached out to council members to try to fund a gap year for next year. Mr. Tabano stated that although there is a slim chance of getting approved, letters went out requesting such funding. Mr. Tabano further stated that in his experience, this grant provided a great incentive for students to come to school, participate in the internship program, and improve their overall academic performance.

VI. Staff Recruitment—Ms. Dominique Fuentes

Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning

Ms. Fuentes stated to the board members that staff recruitment remains the focus for both schools.

a. Brooklyn

Ms. Fuentes stated that a new full-time speech therapist was hired who will support both Brooklyn and Queens schools. The new speech therapist is scheduled to start July 2026.

b. Queens

Ms. Fuentes also confirmed that a new counselor was hired for the Queens school and that she will also start in July 2026. Ms. Fuentes also stated that the final stage of interviews is being conducted for two (2) ESL teachers. There will be one (1) ESL teacher assigned to Queens and one (1) to Brooklyn. Finally, Ms. Fuentes stated that she is working to fill remaining vacant SPED teacher positions.

VII. Student Recruitment

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity

Student recruitment will start again in July.

VIII. School Updates

a. Brooklyn—Ms. Janisha Crawley

Ms. Crawley reported that in Brooklyn, she is currently conducting observations and Regents Preparation. Ms. Crawley further stated that she had no issues at this time and that she believes the staff is ready for the upcoming regents exams.

b. Queens—Dr. Lisa DiAudio

Dr. Asmussen reported to the board members that she believes that the Queens school is ready to move forward and that the staff is prepared for the upcoming Regents exam as well. Dr. Asmussen also informed the board that today the Senior brunch was taking place in Queens.

IX. Facilities—Mr. Brian Baer/Mr. Jose Obregon

a. COO update

Mr. Brain Baer reminded the board that there is a pre-inspection that will take place on June 19, 2026 at the Brooklyn school to make sure that all is set for the final DOB inspection. Mr. Baer asked Dr. Asmussen if she needed him to be present and Dr. Asmussen stated that she and Mr. Obregon would be available to meet with the inspector.

b. Roof in Brooklyn: on hold until COO

Mr. Baer stated that there is a material order that needs to be processed for the roofing pavers that should be done by the end of the month. However, Mr. Brian Baer also stated that the process for obtaining the final COO for Brooklyn is still ongoing. Mr. Baer stated that the final hurdle seems to be getting the NYC DEP to provide the school with a certificate of approval. Mr. Baer also stated that the plumbers have done their job, but it seems to be DEP that is painfully slow as is the FDNY with approving the new fire alarm system in Queens. Mr. Baer stated that he continues to work with the expediter to complete these items.

X. New Business

No new business was discussed.

XI. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

XII. Adjournment

The board agreed to meet again on July 28, 2026, at 11:00 A.M. The board meeting was adjourned at 12:20 P.M.