New Dawn Charter Schools Board of Trustees

August 18, 2026

11:00 p.m.: Executive Meeting
11:15 p.m.: Board Meeting

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, Vice Chair, Ms. Susan Tenner, board member

Board Members Absent: Mr. Daniel Lewis, board member

Staff Members/ Visitors Present: NDCS: Dr. Sara Asmussen, CEO, Mr. Jose Obregon COO/Principal, Mr. Steve Ramkissoon, CFO, Ms. Dominique Fuentes, CHRO, Ms. Emily Predmore, Data Specialist

General Meeting
Mr. Tabano greeted all the attendees and then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the August 2026 Board Meeting Agenda.

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

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

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

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

II. Resolution: July 2026 Minutes—Mr. Ronald Tabano

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

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

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

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

III. Financials—Mr. Steve Ramkissoon

Benchmark 4: Financial Condition
Benchmark 5: Financial Management

a. **Monthly Financials—Tabled until September meeting**
b. **Audit Update**

Mr. Ramkissoon reported that the audit is still progressing and that so far all is in order. Mr. Ramkissoon further stated that he did not believe that the audit was going to conclude soon but possibly in September 2026. Mr. Ramkissoon also stated that the auditors finished reviewing both student and employee files and found no significant issues.

IV. Contracts/Policies—Various

Benchmark 1: Student Performance
Benchmark 2: Teaching and Learning
Benchmark 5: Financial Management
Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance

a. **Coaching Contract**

Mr. Tabano asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the proposed coaching contract discussed during the Executive Session. Dr Asmussen also stated that it was the fourth option that is preferred.

Motion: Ms. Susan Tenner motioned to accept and approve the 4th option of the coaching contract.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept and approve the 4th option of the coaching contract.

b. **Intellispark**

Dr. Asmussen explained to the board members what the Intellispark program entails. The program uses data from interviews conducted with thousands of successful students who went to college and graduated. Students, like New Dawn students, are compared to these successful students and ranked in different areas. Not surprisingly, the New Dawn students compared to the successful students were categorized as at-risk students. Dr. Asmussen further stated that data shows students improve in categories over the years by becoming more confident and become more resilient. They are still in the red zone, but they increase their abilities as the school year progresses. Dr. Asmussen also stated that one important factor is that these at-risk students are in the green when it comes to having an adult to speak to at school. This is a positive factor, especially with the state's movement towards social-emotional learning. Therefore, Dr. Asmussen recommended to the board that the school continue to use this program. Dr. Asmussen also stated that it will be a positive factor when it relates to renewal and annual reports and will help the deans and behavior specialists tier students based on their needs. Everyone is assigned to Tier 1 to begin with, Tier 2 will be for those students confronting situation problems and need support; and Tier 3 will incorporate those students who are having behavioral issues and need significant support. Dr. Asmussen also stated that everyone at New Dawn understands that their job is to educate students, regardless of what their cognitive abilities are, and that it is behavior that gets in the way of learning and this system will allow us to successfully track these students. Subsequently, Dr. Asmussen stated that identifying such behaviors will be great because interventions will be able to be targeted in a meaningful and effective way.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the Intellispark contract.

Motion: Mr. Jeffrey Casio motioned to accept and approve the Intellispark contract.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Brian Baer seconded the motion.

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

c. BOT Meeting Calendar

Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that she has scheduled a board calendar for the upcoming year and that board meetings are scheduled to take place the fourth Tuesday of each month except for December because of Christmas and June because of the Regents exams.

Mr. Tabano then asked the board members if there was a motion to accept and approve the Board of Trustees (BOT) meeting calendar.

Motion: Ms. Susan Tenner motioned to accept and approve the BOT meeting calendar.

Motion Seconded: Mr. Jeffrey Casio seconded the motion.

Vote: The board voted unanimously to accept and approve the BOT meeting calendar.

V. Charter-District Grant Update—Dr. Sara Asmussen

Dr. Asmussen informed the board members that New Dawn was eligible for the charter district grant. The application for the grant was submitted at no cost to the school and the focus in both schools will be on PBIS and engaging students with long term absences. Dr. Asmussen also stated that the company that wrote the grant is going to manage it as well. Therefore, it is a positive opportunity in every sense.

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

a. Brooklyn—closed

Ms. Fuentes reported to the board that she is in the process of onboarding an aspiring teacher for Brooklyn Campus. The starting date for the aspiring teacher will be September 8, 2026.

b. Queens

Ms. Fuentes informed the board members that at the Queens school, a new speech pathologist, Dean, ELL teacher, and a counselor were hired for the Queens school as well. Ms. Fuentes further stated that the remaining staffing needs are for SPED teachers. There is also a need for two (2) SPED teachers for Queens and one (1) for Brooklyn. There is also a need for one more school counselor. Ms. Fuentes confirmed that the vacancy announcements were posted for those positions. Dr. Asmussen asked if there was any progress with the parent coordinator position in Queens. Ms. Fuentes confirmed that interviews for that position were concluded yesterday. Ms. Fuentes also confirmed that there is one candidate who appears to be the best choice and who is fluent in Spanish. References for that candidate are being contacted now.

VII. Student Recruitment

Benchmark 6: Board Oversight & Governance
Benchmark 7: Organizational Capacity

a. Report—Mr. Steve Ramkissoon

Mr. Ramkissoon also informed the board members that the Brooklyn school has two hundred eight-one (281) students enrolled and the Queens school has three hundred-two (302) students enrolled. Mr. Ramkissoon also informed the board members that the Brooklyn school enrolled ten (10) new students over the summer, and the Queens school enrolled twelve (12).

VIII. School Updates

a. Brooklyn—Mr. Jose Obregon

Mr. Obregon reported that Regents exams are being administered now and that the process seems to be going well. Mr. Obregon also reported to the board members that the new fire alarm panel was installed at the Brooklyn school which replaced the fire alarm panel that was damaged by the water leak that happened a few weeks ago. Mr. Obregon further reported that there are a few glitches that need to be addressed before the new panel is fully operational.

b. Queens—Janisha Crawley

Dr. Asmussen informed the board that Ms. Crawley was in the process of administering Regents and there was nothing significant to report.

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

a. COO update

Mr. Brian Baer informed the board members that water meter issue has been addressed. CFS was asked to provide an as-built document and other documentation with their engineer of record, and that requirement was completed. The paperwork was submitted to DEP, and now final approval is in process. Mr. Baer also stated that once the COO for the Brooklyn school is obtained, the school can then proceed with the conversion of the fifth-floor space into an occupiable space, and the school can also move forward with the outdoor play area on the roof. Mr. Baer also confirmed that an initial purchase of the paver system is also in progress.

b. Fire Alarm Queens—Mr. Jose Obregon

Mr. Brian Baer also informed the board members the Queens school got approval by the FDNY for the installation of the new fire alarm system. Mr. Baer also stated that the vendor is charging less than $108,000 for the purchase and installation of the new Fire alarm system, which is approximately a third of the initial price that Barone Management proposed. Mr. Baer informed the board that the fire alarm company is asking for an initial deposit, but they have not sent the school an invoice for that initial deposit. Mr. Baer then asked Dr. Asmussen and Mr. Ramkissoon if the cost of the purchase and installation was negotiated with Barone and at what was the cost sharing agreement. Dr. Asmussen confirmed that it would be split evenly between the school and Barone. Mr. Baer then stated that he would ask Barone to pay the initial deposit and then work out balance due from each party. Dr. Asmussen also sated that Mr. Obregon will work with Barone to figure out access to the building since New Dawn will be closed until the new Fall semester begins in September.

c. Walk Through with Queens Building Owner—Dr. Asmussen/Mr. Steve Ramkissoon

Details were discussed during the executive session. Mr. Ramkissoon briefly spoke about the walk-through that he and Dr. Asmussen conducted with Barone management.

IX. New Business

No new business was discussed.

XI. Public Comment

No public comment was made.

XII. Adjournment

The board agreed to meet again on Tuesday September 22, 2026. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 A.M.