| **New Village Academy Board of Directors Meeting**  **May 25, 2023**  **6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Virtual**  **OPEN BOARD MEETING** **MINUTES**  **Participants:** Neal Brown, Marcus Jones, Kathy Lane, Monica Lindsey, Cheryl Nkeba, Funmi Omidele, Romey Pittman, Darius Stanton  **Vision**  New Village Academy envisions the Annapolis community united in launching ALL its youth into thriving careers, strong character, and civic engagement.  **Mission**  New Village Academy ensures every student is known, connected, empowered, and accountable, so they have the will and the skill to take charge of their education and future, with Annapolis as their classroom.   * **Call to Order** – Darius Stanton (President) (6:00 pm) * **Public Comment** - Darius Stanton (6:05- 6:10 pm)   No public comments were offered after all attendees were invited to do so.   * [**“Committee” Reports**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1MdYx8ug1NkCFeJkwrGz-QoL0JtrUKsw_iZCLcHM3-fM/edit?usp=sharing) (see link) - Romey Pittman (6:10 – 6:45 pm)   **Application update (Romey)**   * Submitted on May 2, over 400 pages, with over 400 pages of appendices. Three copies in three large binders were submitted. We also have this all in an e-version [here](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1i0CYIaBmrbiYMc38-ItuH1sgsHgHvog6?usp=drive_link). * The final decision will be made on August 23 at the Board Meeting of AACPS. It would be helpful to have many of us there at this meeting to show our support. The meeting will begin around 11AM. * Our interview date is July 12, 10:00-11:30. This is with AACPS employees, who will then make a recommendation to the Superintendent, who in turn will make a recommendation to the AACPS Board. Mock Interview with MAPCS scheduled for June 22 at 2pm. * AACPS Board members all have access to the full document. * Once approved, we will be in negotiation with the Board about any changes they are recommending. Then we work with AACPS over the next 30 days to finalize a formal “charter.”   **Grant update (Romey)**   * We have been notified that we will be receiving $215K from the New Ventures Fund, with no strings attached! We were one of twenty of the most innovative schools nationwide. Some additional money will likely trickle in, following the first year, about $200K over 3 years. * We were invited to apply for an all-expense paid leadership fellowship in NYC with leaders from a network of successful schools - Z-Combinator - to prepare for opening a charter school. * We also are likely to receive $2M via the Maryland Alliance (MAPCS) if they receive the funding from the Dept of Education. * We agreed to discuss contingencies if some of this money does not materialize.   **Facility update (Romey)**   * We have moved our plans to a larger space on the 2nd floor of the mall, where Lord & Taylor used to be, 50,000 square feet. It’s more separate from the rest of the mall with our own parking lot and a third floor parking deck. They are open to us subletting the space. They offered the same price total as the smaller space. They continue to offer the $800K build out funds and to reduce by half the first year. The mall owners are interested in building residential. We’re encouraging them to see us as an “anchor” tenant and to have them work with our planners to reinvent the mall to serve the community. * We met with an architect and builder at the site. They estimated about $6M to upgrade the full 50,000 square feet at about $120 per square foot. If we only build out 30,000 ft2, the cost would be closer to 3.6 million. * We met with Sam Chaltain and his partner architect, Trung Le. Their process includes community input and conceptual design, with a local architect or design-build firm completing the construction drawings from which builders would bid on the project. * We’re meeting with two health care organizations who serve those who don’t have or don’t have access to insurance – about the possibility of sharing space with us, as part of the 50,000 square feet.   **Financing/funding update (Kathy)**   * We’ve been meeting with First Tryon Associates, financial advisors who help charter schools to seek funding from lenders. We met with a Senrio Vice President of Truist, Tonya Hill to garner her support and possible funding. We’re looking to get the best rates from lenders who understand working with charter schools. * We have a working budget that reflects the $215K grant. Hurdles include construction costs and meeting operating costs based on per pupil funding without additional money. Year One is “break even,” but we envision surpluses by Years 2 and 3. Getting past the startup is our biggest challenge in the operational budget. * We’re seeking collaboration with developers. Given that Annapolis HS is overcrowded, perhaps additional public funding or a public-private partnership would help fund us to take pressure off that site. * Private fundraising is not yet active, as we haven’t yet finalized our 501(c)3 status. We envision launching a capital campaign for unrestricted donations. Having won the New School Venture Fund helps us raise additional funds. * We also intend to pursue a bond bill to secure additional funding. * Should we reach out to community development organizations for additional support? * Given Romey’s relationship with the County Executive (her sibling), we would be unlikely to go to the County Council for any additional AA County funding support at this time.   **Marketing plan (Romey)**   * Romey is looking for help with social media. She created Facebook and Instagram pages. Already seeing significant interest is out there from families and potential employees. * Word is out that things are not great at Annapolis HS and at the middle schools. This is a mixed blessing. We may get kids that are only coming to be “safe” rather than coming to NVA because they are motivated by our mission/vision. But makes meeting enrollment targets easier. * 1000 brochures, 1000 bookmarks, and 500 stickers have been ordered, as well as an NVA banner and a tablecloth. * We missed out on a table at the Juneteenth celebration in Annapolis. Monica will see if Bishop Coates can squeeze us in. Romey is looking for someone to put together a list of local events. Marcus Jones volunteered.   **Board membership** – Romey Pittman (secretary) (6:45-7:10 pm)  **Board member terms and roles**   * We have up to 21 total slots on the Board. We have a current acting President, Darius Stanton. Romey Pittman is secretary. Monica Lindsey is VP and Marcus Jones is Treasurer. Neal Brown is a trustee at large. * We need trustees with legal and real estate experience, as well as marketing and fundraising backgrounds. Insurance knowledge, political/community engagement also are sought after. We’d like to increase Latinx representation, given the makeup of the community.   [Committee structures](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1U7kG_VDselTSj5IJL2v4CLsiS2tbkKKg5cWkHf5M-zw/edit?usp=sharing)   * + Executive & Nominating Committee – always need to look ahead to populate the board with the skills we need   + PR, Marketing & Enrollment Committee – we’ll need broad involvement here   + Finance & Fundraising Committee – needs to meet regularly to make sure we’re using our resources wisely and monitoring our financial position, we need an ongoing focus on fundraising as well.   + Facility Design & Construction Committee – need those who know real estate, developers, general contractors   + Academic Excellence & Accountability Committee – will be vital once kids are here to push and hold accountable and support Romey, focus on competency framework   **Nominations of** [**new members**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Se8eepJJbCThIR3JY4BkwWOunRaYw-iTnHjayG7Zs14/edit?usp=sharing)   * We discussed possible nominees based on the above committee structures. * Between now and our next meeting, we need to go out in our network and see if they are interested in participating. Then at the next meeting, bring them forward. This board would vote them in as a new member to begin the following meeting. We envision hosting a kick-off trustee retreat in August or September. * We need a short document about board expectations – time commitment – monthly board meetings and monthly committee meetings, donation expectations (make NVA your philanthropic priority), etc. *Kathy will work on a document that describes what we expect from NVA board service.*      * **MOTION**: Cheryl Nkeba, Patricia Eleazer, and Paul Dyer be governing board members of New Village Academy. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously. **APPROVED** * Meeting calendar 2023-24: We’ll put out a Doodle calendar to pick a preferred monthly meeting time for full Board meetings, once we have a few more people. * We discussed the idea of the makeup of the board and the factors/variables we would consider, including whether they live in AA County, whether they represent the diversity of the community, expertise etc. We want to make sure that we have strong local representation. * **Other Business** (7:10 – 8:00 pm)   **Space sharing brainstorm/criteria - plans for a Convening**   * Who do we want to share our space? Or do we want the whole space for ourselves? Should we be looking for a partner right now to frame the buildout? Or build it out and look to sublet? * Alkebulon Shule was mentioned as a possible space partner. They offer Saturday and Sunday school programs. * Kathy lays out three options: 1) We have a partner from the beginning. 2) We develop our space and we leave the other spaces to be developed by a subletter. This puts us on the hook. 3) Or we take over and develop the whole space, prepare all the spaces, and then become landlords. We agreed to have an emergency meeting to discuss any key decisions about facilities. * Health care orgnaization seems particularly promising because they would have potential funds for a build out, and could afford market rate for leasing. Also provide wraparound services, potential internships, and collaboration on public-health-related Community Action Projects.   **Adjournment** – Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm. Seconded and approved. |
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