Minutes for Meeting held at HUM II:
Monday, September 8, 2014 at 5 p.m.

ATTENDANCE
Board Members present: Ronald Chaluisan (Secretary), David Faber (Treasurer)
Nancy Grossman, Angel Rodriguez, Edna Vega (Chair - Video)

NVPS Staff: Jonathan Green, Stephany Martinez, Lori Mei,
Jennie Soler-McIntosh

School Staff: Vanessa Arriola (DSO HUM II), Stacey King (Principal AMS II)
Richard Gonzalez (Principal HUM II), Herald Butler (AP HUM II)

WELCOME

Mr. Chaluisan opened the meeting at 5:06 p.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF PREVIOUS MEETING’S MINUTES

Mr. Faber put forth a motion to accept the minutes from the June 16, 2014 board meeting.
Ms. Grossman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

New Visions Charter High School for Advanced Math and Science II
Ms. King updated the Trustees on instruction and learning, describing the professional development (PD) sessions that took place during the summer to prepare new and returning teachers for the academic year. There was also a three day PD series on Challenge-Based Learning and Ms. King discussed the positive outcomes resulting from the PD. She indicated that the instructional goals for 2014-2015 focus on increasing reading, writing and literacy across all content areas. AMS II will be partnering with the New York City Writing Project (NYCWP) in order to support these instructional and professional development goals. The NYCWP is an organization dedicated to the improving the teaching of literacy skills in schools throughout New York City.

Ms. King described school climate, noting that family home visits took place during the summer. During orientation, families self-selected for a home visit. All teachers visited at least two families totaling 30 family home visits. Ms. King discussed events that took place during the summer such as the parent workshops, where students and families reviewed the Family School Alliance Contract, and the grade team family dinners, where families and students set goals together for the year. Ms. King also indicated that each student has an adult advocate assigned to them in the building. Ms. Grossman asked Ms. King if there had been any “push back” from the teachers about the advocate role and she said no.

Ms. King described conversations with her staff regarding the United Federation of Teachers (UFT) and the possibility of unionizing. Ms. King noted that her staff once again has decided not to unionize this year but still have a great concern about their time off during the summer. The Trustees, Mr. Chaluisan and Ms. King discussed the process that took place when the first two New Vision Charter High Schools became unionized and how that has affected teachers’ ability to fully prepare themselves during the summer for Summer Bridge and the academic year. Mr. Chaluisan indicated that Mr. Robert Hughes, President of New Visions for Public Schools, will attend the October Board meeting to further updated the Board on conversations with the UFT.

Ms. King concluded her report with a summary of August Regents Exam results and an overview of the monthly metrics report for AMS II and answered a few clarifying questions by the Trustees.

New Visions Charter High School for the Humanities II
Mr. Gonzalez updated the Trustees on Summer Bridge, noting that the 9th graders spent their time understanding what the “HUM II way” means in terms of academics, behavior and community. Summer Bridge lays the groundwork for understanding the “HUM II way” which can be summarized by three words: Rigor, Respect and Responsibility. The 10th graders reflected on the past year and also reviewed what it means to be a HUM II Scholar. In addition, the 10th graders also
prepared for any Regents Exams they were going to sit for in the summer and prepared a presentation at the end of Summer Bridge. This presentation is a culmination of the work that they have done in Writing Workshops, Graduation Workshops, and Team Time. Their presentations must include pieces of their autobiographies, as well as pieces of their graduation plan.

Principal Gonzalez discussed school climate, noting that the school has grown to three grade levels and there have been no major problems with the addition of the new grade. He indicated that there are a total of four deans, with the newly hired dean also working part-time as the Spanish Teacher. He also noted that the Scholar Stamp Merit system will continue to be a School Wide Positive Behavior Program and for this year. HUM II will use a hybrid of paper and an electronic systems that allows scholars to track and spend stamps electronically, similar to a bank account, where they can spend their stamps on merchandise in the school store. The store will be developed by the Business class.

Mr. Gonzalez described community connections, noting that 25 sophomore and junior scholars will have a class on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Bronx Community College (BCC) during 9th period. The course is called “First Year Seminar” and in order to take the course, a scholar needs a minimum GPA of 70. The course is an introduction to college awareness where students will develop self-awareness, general education habits such as time management, planning for the future and communication skills. A professor from BCC will teach the course on campus at HUM II. Mr. Gonzalez noted that an overarching goal this year at HUM II is for each teacher to prepare a community based lesson or project, that uses community members as resources for the scholars. Each AP will work with each of the teachers on their teams to make sure that each one completes this goal, as part of their goals for the 2014-2015 academic school year.

Principal Gonzalez discussed the structure of Lower House and Upper House, noting that the structure is focused on grade level “Academies”, with an Assistant Principal (AP) and Guidance Counselor (GC). The AP and GC work with the Principal to develop five Standards for Success for each grade level. Along with each standard, is a SMART goal to track success and determine if intervention is needed.

Mr. Gonzalez concluded his report by describing future plans for a one-to-one tablet for sophomores and juniors. Instead of using laptops from laptop carts, each scholar will receive an Amplify tablet that they are responsible for during the academic year. Before the launch of this system, scholars must pass the 30-Day Challenge where they demonstrate that they have learned the essential elements for appropriate use, maintenance and safety of their Amplify tablets. The Trustees and Mr. Gonzalez discussed the safety measures in place to protect scholars from being accosted outside of the school for their Amplify tablets.
BOARD BUSINESS

NVCHS Team Report
Mr. Chaluisan updated the Trustees on the major supports provided to the schools by the New Visions Charter team. He highlighted the Charter Coordination Meetings that take place on a weekly basis to help with the coordination and documentation of best practices, clarification of model elements and maintenance of a clear mission across the New Visions Charter network. Mr. Chaluisan highlighted a few upcoming events such as information about the Principal Annual Reviews, noting that the Trustees will receive the Principal reviews and will discuss at the November Board meeting, if necessary.

2015-2016 Recruitment
Ms. Jennie Soler-McIntosh, Director of Community Engagement at New Visions, updated the Trustees on recruitment, noting that September 20, 2014 was the official start of the recruitment fairs. She said that her team is working on creating a brochure for the ELL and SpEd populations to better inform families of the services available at all of the New Visions Charter High Schools. Ms. Soler-McIntosh will share the brochures at the October Board Meeting. Mr. Faber asked about enrollment at both schools and Ms. Soler-McIntosh and Mr. Chaluisan further discussed efforts for recruitment and retention.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Chaluisan adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.