



Believe, Achieve, Succeed

SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

The Eugenio María de Hostos Charter School Board of Trustees met in person on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Board Chairman, Mr. Julio Vázquez, called the meeting to order at 5:11 pm. A quorum was established.

Board Members Present In-Person:

Julio Vázquez, Connie O. Walker, Dr. Miriam Vázquez, and Eugenio Marlin.

Board Members Present Virtual:

Angélica Pérez-Delgado, Dr. Marcia DeJesús-Rueff, and Ray Ciccarelli.

Board Members Absent:

Miguel Meléndez, DeAnna Harris and Robert Frasier Jr.

School Staff Present:

Sandra Chevalier-Blackman, John Harris, Zory Martinez-Allocco, Damaris Saltares, Robert Zimmerli, Wellinthon Muñoz, and Wanda Adames.

PUBLIC INPUT

No public input.

COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

Ms. Chevalier Blackman read the draft of the EMHCS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy to the board. The policy states as follows:

"EMHCS will require all staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccine or provide negative testing results on a weekly basis. All staff vaccinated or not must wear an approved face-covering mask inside our school buildings. The mask must cover the mouth and nose. A face-covering mask outside the building is optional. To establish that they have received a vaccination, employees may present written evidence of immunization from the designated site or from another authorized healthcare provider." The policy also included disability (medical) and religious accommodation for staff that can't get vaccinated.

Ms. Walker suggested clarification within the policy to ensure that the following questions are clear to staff:

- Who will be required to vaccinate?
- Who will need to submit a negative test result?

The policy should include the language: "EMHCS will require all staff to receive the COVID-19 vaccination unless the staff member falls under the disability (medical) and religious accommodation; if the staff member is exempt, they must provide a negative COVID-19 test result." The staff member must submit a written medical or religious exemption letter to the school. A church leader must write a religious exemption letter.

Ms. Martinez-Allocco will speak with legal to ensure the correct language is added to the policy. Ms. Pérez-Delgado suggested that the school look at other schools' exemption language on their policy to receive guidance.

Monroe County will be providing test kits to all the schools for onsite testing. Approved sample onsite COVID-19 testing permission letters were shared with the school to provide to families. Staff and students will be randomly tested.

The draft policy stated that all eligible staff is fully vaccinated no later than January 3, 2022. The board requested changing that date to no later than November 1. The policy should also state that staff not fully vaccinated will continue weekly COVID-19 testing until they become fully vaccinated.

ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Vázquez called for a motion to approve the EMHCS COVID-19 Vaccination Policy. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Dr. DeJesús-Rueff seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Mr. Vázquez asked to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Marlin moved the motion, and Ms. Pérez-Delgado seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING:

The next Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 28th, at Joseph Campus, 1069 Joseph Avenue, Rochester, NY 14621.

Respectfully submitted,

Angélica Pérez-Delgado
Board Secretary