

**Minutes of the First Meeting of the Board of Trustees
New Roots Charter School
Women's Community Building
Ithaca, NY
March 17, 2009**

The meeting was called to order by Jason Hamilton at 5:11pm. A quorum of the founding board was present: Linnett Short, Jason Hamilton, Kathryn Caldwell, Peter Bardaglio, Karl Madeo, Jen Bokaer-Smith, Conrad Metcalfe, Christine Coveney, and Tina Nilsen-Hodges.

Background information on charter school boards of trustees was given by J. Hamilton: The Board of Trustees (BOT) is independently responsible for oversight of the educational program and the fiscal accountability of the school.

Further background: J. Hamilton explained New Roots' obligation and commitment to adhere to all open meeting laws. BOT meetings are open to the public. Any time the BOT intends to hold discussion or take action pertaining to public funds, the meeting will be announced in advance and be open to the public. The Board may go to an Executive Session for clearly defined personnel or contractual issues only.

1. Lease Agreement and Personnel Contracts

P. Bardaglio moved to go to Executive Session to discuss lease agreement and personnel contracts.

L. Short seconded; APPROVED: 9-0.

2. Bylaws

K. Caldwell moved to ratify the bylaws as proposed.

C. Coveney seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

The bylaws will be posted on the NRCS website.

3. Election of New Board Members

Newly elected members will be able to discuss but not make motions or vote until their election is approved by the Charter Schools Institute.

J. Bokaer-Smith moved to elect the slate of nominated board members: Tim Turecek, Granger Macy, Synnove Heggoy, Roger Richardson.

L. Short seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

New Board members joined the existing Board members at the Board table.

4. Election of Slate of Officers to the Board of Trustees

K. Madeo nominated the slate of officers: Jason Hamilton, Chair; Peter Bardaglio, Co-Chair; Peter Bardaglio, Treasurer; Kathryn Caldwell, Secretary

L. Short moved to elect the slate as nominated.

C. Metcalf seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

5. Creation of Executive and Finance Committees

K. Madeo moved to nominate the Executive Committee as follows: Officers plus Tina Nilsen-Hodges and Jen Bokaer-Smith.

C. Coveney seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

K. Madeo moved to elect the slate.

L. Short seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

J. Bokaer-Smith nominated the Finance Committee: Tina Nilsen-Hodges, Peter Bardaglio, and Jason Hamilton.

C. Metcalf moved to elect the slate: Peter Bardaglio, Tina Nilsen-Hodges, Jason Hamilton.

K. Caldwell seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

6. Creation of the Position of Principal

P. Bardaglio moved to create the position of New Roots Principal effective retroactively to November 18, 2008.

K. Madeo seconded. APPROVED: 9-0.

7. Hiring of Principal

J. Bokaer-Smith moved that the Board of Trustees appoint Kristina L. Nilsen-Hodges to the position of New Roots Principal effective November 18, 2008 at an annual salary of \$80,000, pro-rated through the first year of employment.

P. Bardaglio seconded. APPROVED: 8-0-1 (T. Nilsen Hodges abstains).

8. Authorization of Principal to Recommend Employees

C. Coveney moved that the Principal be authorized to recommend the appointment and dismissal of New Roots employees.

L. Short seconded. APPROVED: 8-0.

(As Principal, T. Nilsen-Hodges is now an ex-officio, non-voting member of the BOT and does not have a vote on Board actions.)

9. Creation of the Dean of Students Position

C. Metcalfe moved that the Board of Trustees create the position of New Roots Dean of Students effective on this date, March 17, 2009.

J. Bokaer-Smith seconded. APPROVED: 8-0.

10. Principal's Report

T. Nilsen-Hodges recommends that Rudy Blackman be appointed to the position of Dean of Students.

K. Madeo moved: Upon the recommendation of the Principal, that the Board of Trustees appoint Rudy Blackman to the position of New Roots Dean of Students effective April 20, 2009 at an annual salary of \$50,000, pro-rated through the first year of employment.

J. Bokaer-Smith seconded. APPROVED: 8-0.

11. Start-up Period Budget

P. Bardaglio moved to approve the start-up period budget, with revenues from federal start-up grants.

K. Caldwell seconded. APPROVED: 8-0.

The budget will be posted on the NRCS website.

12. Signatory Authority

J. Bokaer-Smith moved that the Principal have signatory rights with the Chair of the Board of Trustees as cosigner for any contracts or checks involving dollar amounts in excess of \$1,000.

L. Short seconded. APPROVED: 8-0.

13. Public Comment Period

Corinne Franz: When is the next board meeting? How is there a hiring committee if it is not appointed by the Board? Which committee is dealing with enrollment? How will the Board be dealing with the hard and fast April 1st enrollment deadline?

J. Hamilton responded. The 1st two questions will be answered on the New Roots website. Clarifying the last question, 4/1 is not a deadline.

T. Nilsen-Hodges clarified that 4/1 is the date after which, if we have received more enrollments than we have spaces, a lottery will be held. In fact, we can continue to accept enrollments throughout school year as long as there are spaces.

Becca Rodomsky-Bish: It has been a pleasure to volunteer for New Roots. Thank you to the trustees for volunteering their time as well.

14. Adjournment

J. Bokaer-Smith moved to adjourn.

C. Coveney seconded. APPROVED: 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathryn Caldwell