

**New Roots Charter School  
Board of Trustees Meeting Thursday October 4, 2011  
5:30 pm, Clinton House Lobby**

**I. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by the Chair at 5:35 pm.

Quorum present: J. Hamilton (Chair), J. Bokaer-Smith, S. Heggoy (Secretary), G. Macy, R. Richardson, A. Spence.

T. Nilsen-Hodges (Principal/ex-officio), K. Torello (Ex-officio student Trustee) were also present.

J. Hamilton introduced and welcomed Abe Spence, our new Board member, from the Cornell University Johnson School of Management. A. Spence shared a few remarks, including the fact that he had a passion for community service.

**II. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.**

R. Richardson moved to approve the July 27 minutes, G. Macy seconded, and motion was *approved unanimously*.

**III. Principal's report. (Appended)**

**IV. Old Business.**

Students from public policy course presented a proposal for senior privileges that they are developing for staff consideration, including an open campus lunch policy.

Before the presentation, the Chair commented that the Board would need time to review the newly submitted proposal, and that an operationalized report should include details to be worked out with the administration, and address specifics such as what an acceptable GPA might be in order to take advantage of such a privilege.

Robin Trumble and Zoe Fasset-Manuszewski presented the proposal and gracefully acknowledged assistance from Kelsie Torello and their classmates in preparing the document.

Discussion followed, with suggestions that students and staff come together and develop a specific proposal that would address issues such as implementation, liability, and the impact of the Farm to School program. G. Macy then moved that the Board express support for the general idea presented, and then revisit the proposal with above suggestions incorporated, including how to administer such a policy. A. Spence seconded the motion. *Vote passed unanimously*.

After a brief break, J. Hamilton called the meeting back to order at 6:30 PM.

**V. New Business**

Presentation and discussion of Charter Schools Institute's Final Report of Site Visit to New Roots conducted on May 17, 2011.

T. Nilsen-Hodges shared comments re: the Site Visit report (with some minor corrections, such as Secretary to the Board, S. Heggoy). As stated in the report, "based

on the analysis of evidence from the evaluation visit, New Roots is on a trajectory toward meeting its Qualitative Educational Benchmarks by the time of renewal.” Discussion followed, including G. Macy’s comment that not only does New Roots have more at-risk students than we ever expected to have, but that they are also being well served in our school. The Board will receive quarterly updates re: an accountability plan and financial reports so that we can continue to provide appropriate oversight and support to New Roots Charter School.

T. Nilsen-Hodges then presented the Principal’s Action Plan. (Appended)

#### **VI. Motion to Adjourn**

G. Macy’s motion to adjourn was seconded by J. B-Smith. *Vote: Unanimous.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Synnove Heggoy, Secretary to the Board