Nea Community Learning Center

Nea Governing Board Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2014 – 6:30 PM

This meeting was held at the Nea Community Learning Center
Upper Village Campus Tree, 500 Pacific Ave, Alameda, CA 94501

1. Public Session 6:30 PM

a. **Call to Order & Attendance**
Meeting is called to order by ___Maafi Gueye_____at __6:37PM_____

Board Members	Present	Absent
Maafi Gueye, Nea Lead Facilitator	__X___	_____
Lesley Wighton, Nea Facilitator	__X___	_____
Susie McKee, Nea Facilitator	__X___	_____
Robert Bills, Jr, Nea Learner	__X___	_____
Robert Tran, Nea Learner	__X___	_____
Patricia Petersen, Nea Parent	__X___	_____
Brendan Doherty, Nea Parent	__X___	_____
Linda Ivey, Community Member	_____	__X___
Patricia Drew, Community Member	_____	__X___
Vianne McKee, Learner Alternate	__X___	_____

2. Review and Approval of Agenda **6:35 PM**

Maafi Gueye, Nea Lead Facilitator	AYE
Lesley Wighton, Nea Facilitator	AYE
Susie McKee, Nea Facilitator	AYE
Robert Bills, Jr, Nea Learner	AYE
Patricia Petersen, Nea Parent	AYE
Brendan Doherty, Nea Parent	AYE
Vianne McKee, Learner Alternate	AYE

Robert Bills motions to approve the agenda, 2nd by Lesley.
Approved (7-0). 0 Abstentions.

3. Presentations From the Floor **7:15 PM**

PRESENTATIONS FROM THE FLOOR - At this time any person wishing to speak to any item not on the agenda will be granted three minutes to make a presentation to the Board of Directors.

Robert Cassard: Here to say hi and be present for the Nea Board Meeting.

PRESENTATION ON AGENDA ITEMS – Any person wishing to speak to any item on the agenda will be granted five minutes to make a presentation just prior to the agenda item.

Lead Facilitator Report

February 2014

February Nea Principle: Problem Solving

The Nea Community will use Problem Solving to:

- overcome obstacles and find a solution that best resolves the problem
- organize knowledge and develop strategies to correctly solve a problem
- evaluate the results to determine if it is the best possible solution to the problem.

Pluses (+)

1) Well attended Nea 4th and 5th Grade family information nights and tours

2) Nea Governing Board confirmed a sibling preference to admission policies for current enrollment cycle

3) 27 Nea Science Colloquium Projects going on to the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair in March

4) College Acceptances and notices of Academic Scholarships coming in for Nea Class of 2014

Challenges Inspiring Changes (Deltas: Δ)

1) 1st Semester grade rates of D and F reviewed; *Incomplete (I)* and an Academic Resilience Plan (ARP) offered for marginal learners

2) A conflict between two UV learners escalated into an afterschool assault that was filmed and briefly posted on the internet has inspired a protracted and school-wide conversation and development of restorative action steps

Details

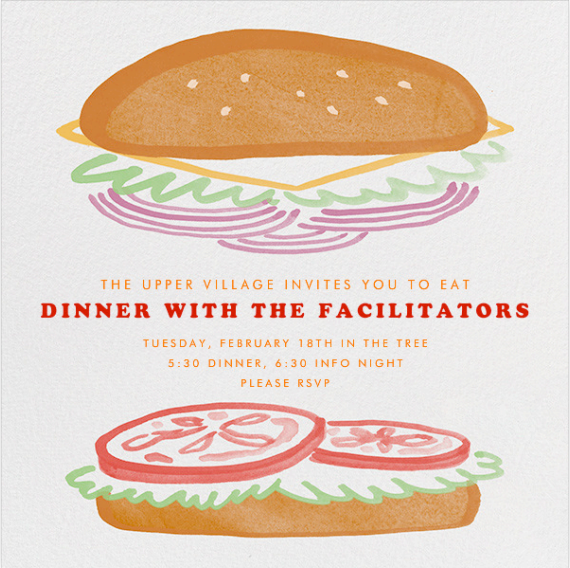
1) Nea PTSA and Middle School Facilitators *Meet and Greet* Partnership :

Families of current Nea 4th and 5th graders have been invited to two events at which they can meet the entire middle school team. Held January 29th and February 18, families were invited to:

a) **Learn** about what happens in middle school seminars.
b) **Hear** about the electives are being offered.
c) **Discover** how the Tree works.
d) **Inquire** about math placement diagnostics for incoming 6th graders.
e) ...and more!

Projects and UV learners are on hand, and facilitators led presentations and small group discussions about their programs.

The February invite and photos that went to the homes of all Nea 4th and 5th grade learners:



Nea Class of 2022

Nea Class of 2021

2) Nea Sibling-Preference Policy Language

a) Adopted by Nea Governing Board January 22, 2014:

If the number of learners requesting admission exceeds the number of spaces currently available for admission, preference will be given to the groups or classes of students listed below and attendance will be determined by a public random lottery. Existing Nea students are exempt from the lottery. In the case of a lottery the following preferences will be utilized in order of the priority and listed below which is consistent with current AUSD district policy regarding enrollment preferences:

- Nea will allow the children of facilitators, staff members and current CLCS, Nea and ACLC Governing Board Community members to attend the school upon application regardless of their place of residence
- Preference in admission will be given to siblings of existing learners in the school who are Alameda residents
- Preference is given to learners applying from within AUSD enrollment boundaries over those applying from outside the district

Here is the former language for Nea:

- Nea will allow the children of facilitators, staff members and current CLCS, Nea and ACLC Governing Board Community members to attend the school upon application regardless of their place of residence
- Preference is given to learners applying from within AUSD enrollment boundaries over those applying from outside the district

3) Nea Science Colloquium sends 27 Projects to the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair

Congratulations to UV learners! All Nea UV learners participated in a long-term investigation that culminated in a presentation summarizing their findings. Nea hosted an A-List of esteemed judges:

- Brian Elder, Nea Class of 2014; County 1st Place/Best-in-Show and State Competitor 2013
- Maria Love, Nea Parent Class of 2013 and Accomplished Advanced Mathematician
- Alex Kudroff, Zoologist from the NY Zoo in Queens, New York
- Michelle Owens, Nea Parent and Accomplished Molecular Biologist
- Klaus Schniedergers, Nea Parent and Accomplished Software Engineer
- Zach Vickers, Paramedic

- Joe Mega, MD, Family Medicine Physician
- Pablo Solis, Nea Sibling, PhD Candidate in Theoretical Mathematics:

Learner Name(s) and Project Title of Investigations going to the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair:

Ezra H	**How do local and nonlocal bird sounds affect a cat's behavior?**
Jack L & Cornelius W	Do emotions affect time perception?
Leia B	**How do different liquids affect the growth of dry active yeast?**
Jessica N	Does the radiation from a cell phone generate enough energy to pop a popcorn kernel?
Noah W	**How does soil nutrition affect the growth of an ice plant?**
Nikhil P	How does white vinegar (pH 2.4) change the weight of different types of rocks after 72 hours?
Greer S	**What is the effect of repeated, progressively more intensified exposure to spiders on participants' arachnophobia responses?**
Maximilian S	Are biodegradable packing materials as effective as non-biodegradable packing materials when packing a breakable object?
Isabelle M & Holly T	**Can Juncus acutus purify water and produce a healthier environment for Daphnia and Algae?**
Leah B & Alessandra H	How does the type of gum affect the bacteria in different areas of your teeth?
Ryan F	**How does paint color affect room temperature?**
Briana T	How does peer pressure affect the amount of effort on academic tasks?
Charlie V-H	**How does flavor affect the amount of licks it takes to get to the center of a Tootsie Pop?**
Tairen P	How do non-Newtonian liquids protect an egg from a dropping hammer?
Lauryn N	**How do different types of soda affect a squash plant?**
Alexis L & Sara S	How does the texture of a surface affect the spatter of blood?
Zackary F	**How does the pH of soil affect plant growth**
Nyema E & Malia R	How does changing the particle size of an Alka-Seltzer tablet affect the rate of a reaction?
Isaiah H	**How do different ground materials affect the rebound height of basketballs, baseballs, and racquetballs?**
Kevin C & Robert T	How does temperature affect the potency of penicillin?
Lauren R	**How does cannabis affect the transition from alcoholism to sobriety?**
Ethan W	How does the difference of the air pressure of a ball and the qualities of the ground it is dropped on affect the rebound height limit?
Migelle M	**How does heat affect the viscosity of syrup?**
Juliana R & Camila R-G	How does listening to one minute of classical and rock music affect the heart rate of a teenager?
Tony N	**What lighting technology is most efficient?**
Vianne M	The Effects of Processing Coconut Meat on Saltwater
Drake T	**How Do Different Materials Affect the Amount of Static Electricity Produced By a Balloon?**

4) College Acceptances and Scholarship Notices Received as of February 3, 2014

- San Francisco State
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Fullerton
- Humboldt State
- Chico State
  Sacramento State
- University of Nevada Reno
- University of Utah
- University of Pacific Honors Program w/Academic Scholarship
- Mills College w/Academic Scholarship

- Santa Clara University w/Academic Scholarship
- Cal Poly Pomona
- University of California Riverside
- Azusa Pacific

5) Grades of Incomplete instead of D or F for Marginal Learners (~12% of Learners)

- If a learner earned a grade of D or F and a facilitator determined that:
  - the underperformance was primarily due to missed assignments OR missed (shirked) opportunities for support,
  - the facilitator may have to expend more effort to reach a learner that generally demonstrates effort,
  - with more facilitator support and a renewed opportunity a learner may be able to raise the grade to a C,

the learner and facilitator will enter into an Academic Resilience Plan (ARP) that will support the learner in *bouncing back* and better developing requisite executive functioning skills. Learners have until March 21st 2014, to meet the requirements of their ARP with their facilitator.

5. Executive Directors Report

Community Learning Center Schools Board Meeting:
February 20, 2014 Executive Director Report –Patti Wilczek

1. We are working with CTA to schedule our initial negotiation meeting. We anticipate this will occur in March.

2. Nea and ACLC each had their first facilities master planning meeting with the AUSD-retained architects. These discussions went well, with each set of school representatives offering a list of facilities needs that will best support our programs in future (e.g., ensure sufficiently sized Center/Tree/Nest; multi-purpose science lab; flexible learning spaces). We have mutually agreed to postpone the second of these meetings until the latter part of March or April, pending clarity of where our schools will be housed next year, and beyond.

3. We continue in negotiations with the school district for an alternative to Prop 39 agreement. A move of both schools to the Woodstock School site seems increasingly likely. In the meantime, I continue to meet with parents, facilitators and learners whenever the request is made that I do so, and hold weekly small group discussions with parents to disseminate information and address concerns.

4. Work toward creating an alternative path to graduation from our schools continues. I hope we are ready to present a draft to the Nea and ACLC facilitator groups within the next month or so.

5. I've had several conversations with the district regarding our Prop 39 funding for support of a more environmentally sound facility. Given that we don't know where we will land next year, we have mutually agreed to put any project planning on hold, pending clarity in this regard. Postponing the creation of our plan does not cause any consequence with respect to deadlines, etc.

6. Leadership Report

Vivanne: Dance in the beginning of March. Bake sale this Friday on the 21st of February.

Robert T: A poster of what needs to be changed in the student handbook. Such things include: The Tree, JC usage, learner interaction.

Robert B: Used Government Programs. Role playing government roles in politics. Sacramento Government Program for High school and Middle school students at YNG.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approve Board Meeting Minutes for January 2014 **7:45 PM**

b. Approve Check Register January 2014

Maafi Gueye, Nea Lead Facilitator	AYE
Lesley Wighton, Nea Facilitator	AYE
Susie McKee, Nea Facilitator	AYE
Robert Bills, Jr, Nea Learner	AYE
Patricia Petersen, Nea Parent	AYE
Brendan Doherty, Nea Parent	AYE
Vianne McKee, Learner Alternate	AYE
Robert Tran, Nea Learner	AYE

Robert T motions to approve consent agenda, 2nd by Robert Bills.

Approved (8-0). 0 Abstentions.

8. Discussion Items **7:20 PM**

a. Upper Village Grading Policy Enhancement

For learners whose cumulative academic percentage for a semester is 69%, 79% or 89%, their letter grade shall be recorded as a C, B or A respectively.

Brendan: If it at the discretion of the facilitator.

Maafi: Transcripts are created in Powerschool. Illuminate does not print transcripts and report cards. Cannot have different grades.

Lesley: Percentages in college cannot be rounded off.

Susie: Learners have to earn their grades.

Brendan: Time management is the key to learners being responsible to do and turn in their work on time. It should always be the objective work and the objective time management.

Lesley: All learners are able to check their grades and percentages online and track their progress. If assignments are missing, there should be a reminder going out to learners.

Vivanne: I got a 89.9999 percentage and I kept asking my facilitator what I need to do is change my grade to an A.

Maafi: Administrators cannot change learner grades, only facilitators can change it.

b. Upper Village Academic Resilience Plan (ARP) Policy

If a learner earned a grade of D or F *in first semester* and a facilitator determined that:

- **i.** the underperformance was primarily due to missed assignments OR missed (shirked) opportunities for support,
- **ii.** the facilitator may have to expend more effort to reach a learner that generally demonstrates effort,
- **iii.** with more facilitator support and a renewed opportunity a learner may be able to raise the grade to a C,

the learner and facilitator will enter into an Academic Resilience Plan (ARP) that will support the learner in *bouncing back* and better developing requisite executive functioning skills. This year, learners have until March 21st 2014, to meet the requirements of their ARP with their facilitator. In the future, learners will have until the Friday before the week before Spring Break. Learners are entered into an ARP at the discretion of the seminar facilitator.

Maafi: There are 32 learners within the Academic Resilience Plan. Facilitators are looking to extend their outreach to help failing learners to receive a passing grade.

Brendan: We need to focus on learners who truly need help.

Maafi: Our facilitators need to reach out to learners and help them achieve academic success. Facilitators can always do better by holding learners accountable for their academic success.

Brendan: A standard would be set with specialty education. Facilitators are given more latitude and the ability to manage time, be responsible.

Maafi: Set a collective culture service by time frame. Facilitators are mandated to be available to the learners.

Brendan: We need to move the behavior to what we want and help with time management problems. There should be share learner support practices or have case studies. Everyone should bring in a problem that they have no solution to and have peers evaluate and possibly find a solution.

Maafi: We need to embrace the project learning base model so that learners are motivated to work on projects and be willing to learn. No policy and to have better ways to facilitate learners. Maybe we need to lure learners into tutoring by offering food to them. There could be 2 facilitators in a classroom helping learners.

c. The Local Control Funding Formula and the Local Control and Accountability Plan

Recent enactment of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) requires that all charter schools complete a Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). Nea's LCAP must be approved by our board by July 1st. Prior to approval we must consult with facilitators, all other school personnel, parents, and learners. The Lead Facilitator will solicit initial input from these constituencies and then share a draft LCAP with them for review before submitting it to our board for approval. Nea's LCAP draft will be submitted to the Nea Governing Board at the April 2014 meeting.

Information for Review:

- Local Control Funding Formula Overview or http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/lc/lcffoverview.asp
- Attachment: The approved Local Control and Accountability Plan Template (pdf)

Maafi: Our local board has to approve LCAPS to cover 3 years to be updated annually. The draft will be given to this board and be submitted to the state on July 1st 2014. We have 5 subgroups at Nea. We have to submit plans to support learners and these subgroups. Set goals in the 8 areas that need the most support. We need to be to reflect the data with what we have in assessments. School will get certain amounts of money and will need to show how they will be spending the money on the school.

Nea has been operating on local taxes, ADA and other minor funding. However, this is our opportunity to receive more funding from the state through our success in reducing suspensions, raising assessment scores, etc. I will be working with engaging PTA, learners, parents and the community. Will be working on a draft to bring to the board and an acceptable plan to the state for consideration.

Brendan: How do we pick qualified people to evaluate?

Maafi: I would like to have our technology folks who are committed to work on the 3 year plan.

Brendan: We need to collaborate and make good decisions to inquire this huge lump of money the state is offering. What type of technology is appropriate for purchase to give to our learners. The construction of the advisory committee should include the right folks.

Maafi: Whatever money comes in, we can still supply support to all learners and families from different backgrounds that fit into subcategorized groups. We need to have plan and adopt it for July 1st 2014.

9. Action Items **8:00 PM**

a. None

10. Adjourn **8:03 PM**

The next Nea Board Meeting is scheduled March 19th, 2014 at Nea Upper Village in the Tree.

THE ORDER OF BUSINESS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the order of consideration of matters on this agenda may be changed without prior notice.

REASONABLE LIMITATIONS MAY BE PLACED ON PUBLIC TESTIMONY
The Board of Directors' presiding officer reserves the right to impose reasonable time limits on public testimony to ensure that the agenda is completed.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS MAY BE MADE
Notice is hereby given that consistent with the requirements of the *Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act*, special presentations not mentioned in the agenda may be made at this meeting. However, any such presentation will be for information only.

REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION WILL BE PROVIDED FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY
Pursuant to the *Rehabilitation Act of 1973* and the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, any individual with a disability who requires reasonable accommodation to attend or participate in this meeting of the Board of Directors may request assistance by contacting Community Learning Center Schools, Inc., 500 Pacific Ave, Alameda, CA 94501, phone (510) 748-4008 x103, fax (510) 864-4281, during school hours.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
For more information concerning this agenda or for materials pertaining to the board meeting, please contact Community Learning Center Schools, Inc., 500 Pacific Ave, Alameda, CA 94501, phone (510) 748-4008 x103, fax (510) 864-4281, during school hours.