The Trustees in attendance: Rick Rieder, Bob Howitt, Ezdehar Abuhatab, Scott Sleyster, Trisha Scipio, Nicole Bearce, Lawrence Evans, Paul Bambrick-Santoyo, Ravi Bellur, Steven Creekmur, Doug McNeely
Absentee Trustee: Thomas Redburn, Jamey Verrilli
Also present: Juliana Worrell, Karin Gerald, Adna Zejnilovic, Christine Carvalho, Denisse Rodriguez, Michael Mann, Brett Peiser, Laura McGinley, Natalie Cooper

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Rick Rieder, who noted that the meeting had been duly publicized, as required by law, in the Star Ledger and El Coqui with updated teleconference information posted on the North Star Academy website.

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2020 board meeting.

Mr. Rieder opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were made.

A motion was made to move to executive session. It having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:09 pm.

Ms. Gerald gave a brief External Affairs update on the Charter Renewal Application and Newark Enrolls processes.

After declaring a desire to return to open session, it having been moved and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously to reconvene to open session at 6:24 pm.

Mr. Bellur shared updates from the Finance and Facilities Committee, including the Q1 budget update. He also presented the Comprehensive Annual Finance Report and Audit Management Report.

Ms. Gerald presented the following items to the Board for approval:

- Approval of Check Register and Purchase Orders
- Approval of Budget, Balance Sheet and Treasurer’s Report
- Resolution to approve Audit Reports (CAFR & AMR)
- Resolution to approve VantageSportz (Zebra Pay System)

It having been moved and duly seconded, the trustees voted unanimously to approve the aforementioned resolutions and reports.

Ms. McGinley and Ms. Cooper provided an update from the Development Team about annual giving.

A motion was made to move to executive session. It having been moved and duly seconded, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:36 pm.

Mr. Howitt announced that he will be stepping down from the North Star Academy Charter School of Newark Board of Trustees effective December 31, 2020. In the words of Board Chair, Rick Rieder, “when it comes to charter school education, when it comes to doing the right thing for communities and students and children, and when it came to North Star, Bob Howitt has done exceptional work for many years.”

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

THE NEXT BOARD MEETING will be held on Monday, January 25th.
Location will depend on status of closure but is tentatively scheduled to take place via zoom.