

The Bronx Charter School for Children

Board Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Bronx Charter School of Children was held virtually on June 17, 2021, at 4:30pm.

The following members of the Board were present:

Denise Alexander (Ex-Officio, Executive Director), Brigitte Bentele, Sydney Blair, Joanne Carris, Jane Ehrenberg Rosen (chair), Mark A. Samuel, Nicole Schmidt, and Larry Slous.

Absent were: Hayden Chan, Bruce Greenwald, Krista Hammond, Paul Libretta

Guests included Carolyn Lashley (Director of Culture and Family Engagement), Candice Manzano (Director of Operations), Bruno Marchan (Director of Middle School Placement), Suzie Rivera (Director of Human Resources) and Anastasiya Rosenbaum (Director of Finance).

The meeting was called to order at 4:34pm.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve the minutes of the last Board meeting held on May 20, 2021, in the form previously circulated.

Executive Director Report

Denise Alexander introduced members of the leadership to give presentation. Carolyn Lashley reported on the difficulty of the year for families and teachers and on the need to service the whole child. Volunteers use CICO, check in check out, to give scholars special attention, allowing them to talk or write about their experiences. Suzie Rivera reported on hiring for next year: an art position for the elementary school and eight positions for the middle school need to be filled; five teachers are not returning. Bruno Marchan is using the same plan for middle school placement as in the past; for high school placement, he plans to have individual meetings with 7th grade students three times a year, with two of those including the parents. He plans to invite graduates of TBCSC to talk to scholars and to visit independent schools with scholars. Government support is earmarked for mitigating loss of learning which can be used to fund test preparation for specialized high schools in the last trimester of the 7th grade. Using the results of the end of year assessments, tutoring will get scheduled for Saturday, before and after school. The board discussed requiring the staff to be vaccinated. Denise will consult with attorney.

Academic Committee

The committee met with the Academic Leadership Team to hear about plans for next year. Proposals include having three houses or mini-communities for scholars in grades 2-5 who

perform similarly, increasing the time of Wednesday early release days for professional development, and creating an intensive support program for students who aren't on grade level.

Development Committee

Denise expanded on the Development Report (attached), with the correction that the CARES grant from the federal government is pending. A candlelight service was held for Ariel Santos. The board asks the Development Committee to propose funding in his name, perhaps related to music.

Finance Committee

Anastasiya Rosenbaum reported that not much has changed since last month. By the end of the year, we project 1.58 million because of higher year-end revenue and lower expenses. Extended learning opportunities and a math curriculum lead/supervisor will be funded. The annual budget which circulated previously via email was approved unanimously.

Governance Committee

Denise reported on the SED Notice of Deficiency and the Corrective Action Plan. The SpEd numbers are up by 3%. Recruitment has been an issue since it is not yet widely known that we will offer a 12-1-1 program next year. The Board Recruitment subcommittee met once. Sydney Blair reported that they will try various avenues for finding new board members, with diversity as a top priority. According to the SED, beginning in July board meetings will need to be held on site or in the community school district.

Facilities Committee

Larry Slous sent board members an email update on facilities (attached) and summarized its content. The current status for adding space for 6th and 7th grades for next year : investigating renovating 388 Willis to "squeeze" the 6th and 7th grades into it; we (our realtors) are preparing a proposal to design a "swing space" at a 149th Street property; a ground up development for a K-8 building on Bergen Avenue. We continue to look for other options.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Bentele, Secretary