

The Bronx Charter School for Children

Board Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Bronx Charter School of Children was held virtually on September 23, at 4:36pm.

The following members of the Board and Administration were present:

Denise Alexander (Ex-Officio, Executive Director), Jane Ehrenberg Rosen (chair), Hayden Chan (Secretary), Brigitte Bentele, Nicole Schmidt, Mark A. Samuel, Bruce Greenwald, Krista Hammond, Paul Libretta, Anastasiya Rosenbaum (Director of Finance), Candice Manzano (Director of Operations), Richard Gonzalez (Middle School Principal), Bethany Goldszer (Director of Development and Community Partnerships), Carmen Umpierre (Elementary School Principal) and Bonnie Halloran (Director of Data and Assessments).

Larry Slous, Joanne Carris, and Sydney Blair and were absent.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve the minutes of the last Board meeting held on August 19, 2021. Motion duly made by Bruce Greenwald, seconded and approved by Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Brigitte Bentele, Paul Libretta, Mark A. Samuel, Krista Hammond, Nicole Schmidt, and Hayden Chan at 5:06 pm.

Board on Track Presentation

Rachel Ksenyak, Senior Governance Coach provided an overview of the Board on Track online platform which is hosted by Amazon Web Services (AWS). The platform runs on two tracks Strategic and Operational. The strategic aspect is focused on supporting the Board of Directors, executive evaluation and provides a resource library. Operationally there are tools to manage Board Meetings such as set agendas, take notes, track attendance and recording. Rachel Ksenyak will provide a data and physical security overview as a follow up.

ED Highlights

Denise Alexander

The school is experiencing vacancy and coverage challenges due to predictable teacher shortages as New York City is one of the hardest hit areas. Due to our size of our school it has been difficult to recruit, therefore Denise is working with other school leaders in the area to potentially form a coalition to expand the network of available talent. In addition, other measures are being taken to procure talent used in the past such as reaching out to agencies, Colleges/Universities and retired teachers. Unfortunately the talent pool is very shallow and quite alarming. We predict this trend of limited talent to extend to the end of year.

Principal Highlights

Elementary School Principal, Carmen Umpierre

There is a high energy level with parents and scholars as they physically return to school.

Teachers and scholars are being provided much support as the school year begins.

Middle School Principal, Richard Gonzalez

Following activities conducted - Math testing, formation of intervention groups, science curriculum “Amplify”, one-on-one math with teacher and participated in NYC day history fair.

NWEA

Scholar Academic Data Presentation by Director of Data and Assessments, Bonnie Halloran Reviewed the benchmark methodology of NWEA assessment solutions that measure growth and proficiency of our scholars. Solutions include Map Growth (benchmark assessment 3 times a year), computerized adaptive test, which calibrates with students answers. Student Achievement Scores represents a scholars Zone of Proximal Development ZPD. Assessments are untimed and take approximately 40 to 60 minutes to complete. Students take Reading and Math, Science for grades 6 to 8. Flooding due to remnants of Hurricane Ida delayed the tests a week. NWEA provides a snapshot of scholars test results and have the ability to compare to the national score, ranks by percentile and ranks by questions asked.

Last year was the first time using NWEA in an all remote environment. Starting to see growth and looking forward to continuing the upward trajectory. Assessments helps highlight instruction area and identify where the GAPS are to navigate creation of individual math and reading programs. NWEA is the #1 portal for Charter Schools and other leaders are using it. This platform allows us to tailor to the individual scholar. Data Day is September 29, 2021

Academic Committee

Brigitte Bentele

Met on Tuesday September 21 with a number of presenters and listened to various plans. Scholar testing is scheduled to be completed on the 28th. A tier 3 is being created in Math and ELA that will receive intensive intervention to help integrate scholars to the core classroom. There is also a MLL program where English language proficiency is attained by a certain grade. There is a certain percentage of Multilanguage scholars in Kindergarten to 7th grade will benefit from the MLL program, with a couple of other scholars that may require intensive intervention.

Development Committee

Krista Hammond and Bethany Goldszer

Donors show strong interest in supporting high performing students, corporate diversity programs, family support for unemployed/financial incapable, teacher training (develop leaders/curriculum lead/assistant principal development pipeline). The teacher shortage is an opportunity to craft development. Major gift, annual campaign - funding music program and carve out musical scholarship for student with an aptitude.

Finance Committee

Bruce Greenwald and Anastasiya Rosenbaum

Monthly Financials will be completed in the next couple of days. The enrollment process is still ongoing. Audit officially began and in process, anticipate completion in the next couple of weeks.

VOTED:

To approve the vaccination policy. Motion duly made by Bruce Greenwald, seconded and approved by Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Brigitte Bentele, Paul Libretta, Mark A. Samuel, Krista Hammond, Nicole Schmidt, and Hayden Chan at 6:00 pm.

Governance Committee

Paul Libretta

Approval of By Law Changes

Approval of Board Job Officer Descriptions

Board Calendar

Meeting notice requirements - Jane circulates board meetings for the year and any special meetings we need with 10 days' notice. Meetings are posted on the website and the master calendar for NYSED, NYC and parents. Executive Director Goal setting process is ongoing and Open Meeting Law reinstated to the second week of January 2022.

VOTED:

To approve adoption of bylaws changes. Motion duly made by Bruce Greenwald, seconded and approved by Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Brigitte Bentele, Paul Libretta, Mark A. Samuel, Krista Hammond, Nicole Schmidt, and Hayden Chan at 6:03 pm.

VOTED:

To approve Board Job Officer Descriptions. Motion duly made by Brigitte Bentele, seconded and approved by Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Bruce Greenwald, Paul Libretta, Mark A. Samuel, Krista Hammond, Nicole Schmidt, and Hayden Chan at 6:04 pm.

Facilities Committee

Bruce Greenwald

388 Willis Flood Damage/Repairs

423-435 138th St Updates

423-435 138th St. Temporary Certificate of Occupancy issued online and landlord obtained the physical letter. Possibility additional space may be available. 388 Willis suffered flood damages a couple of weeks ago caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. Landlord is taking steps to remediate property damages and other unforeseen fallout (mold). Overall facility planning need to consider our current leases and strategies to optimize current and future space requirements. No new space has been offered, aside from one project developer who are in communication with our broker.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayden Chan, Secretary