

The Bronx Charter School for Children

Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Bronx Charter School of Children was held virtually on November 18, at 4:32pm.

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, Bruce Greenwald, Paul Libretta, Larry Slous, Anastasiya Rosenbaum (Director of Finance), Candice Manzano (Director of Operations), Richard Gonzalez (Middle School Principal) and Carmen Umpierre (Elementary School Principal).

Mark A. Samuel, Sydney Blair, Joanne Carris and Krista Hammond were absent.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve the minutes with corrections of the last Board meeting held on October 21, 2021. Motion duly made by Nicole Schmidt, seconded and approved by Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Brigitte Bentele, Paul Libretta, Larry Slous, Bruce Greenwald, and Hayden Chan.

November ED Report

TBCSC approved for a pop-up vaccine site (5-11 years old) and disseminated via Social Media, phone, back pack, Dojo and virtual calendar. Meeting with parents to gauge interest in vaccinations, in general the rate of vaccinating is low in the Bronx.

Summative expectations (assessment of what was learned, 6 - 7 weeks of instructions), target of 70% minimum mastery benchmark which is current at expectations. Teaching has been foundational, along with data analysis in addition to exit tickets, quizzes, observation of scholars. Every 6 weeks new content is introduced. Scholars who have not met the target of 70% minimum mastery participate in tier 2 instructions to work towards 70% mastery. Fielded family complaints in the last month.

Principal Highlights

Carmen Umpierre – Considering incorporating think aloud method in the classrooms. Hired three teachers, two interventionist and one math. A pilot program will start in December to enhance English and support Spanish. RSA letters for students with disabilities. Open teaching positions still available.

Richard Gonzalez – Managing scholar interpersonal dynamics. 6th grade Curriculum more stringent the scholars are accustomed to. Math is an area where further support will be provided. Hired a Math Gen Ed teacher and two candidates are being reviewed for a supervisor role. ELA 6/7 grade presented strong summatives. Due to the circumstances of the past couple of years, we notice scholar’s writing stamina is weak. Will focus on Writing revolution

curriculum math/science clear concise, evidence supporting passages. Science 6th grade biology conducted two experiments. Scholars showed strong interest in leadership programs for the second semester, national history day participation. Statistically bullying peaks in the 6th grade, Tik-Tok challenges (hit teachers, touching, damaging furniture) are being closely monitored. To mitigate this trend, a Virtual talk is conducted weekly to address these trends with parents and look to include restorative practices to engage scholars.

TBCSC State Testing 2016-2019

Yearly public schools testing by NYS, standardized test, format same for all schools consisting of 3rd – 7th grade ELA, Math, 4th grade Science, Math more conceptual based and ELA focus on text evidence. Denise Alexander presented October ED Report with major highlights from the school. Need to focus on constructive response items. Low scholar attrition rates enabled consistent tracking of progress. Comparable school list - we performed quite well.

Development Committee

Bethany Goldszer (Director of Development and Community Partnerships) resigned due to personal issues. Development status report provided to the board to review. Currently working of five grant proposals. Krista Hammond resigned from the board.

Finance Committee

Bruce Greenwald will circulate the Annual Audited Financials. Anastasiya Rosenbaum – per pupil revenue less than budgeted, October expenses increased attributed to more temporary teachers, forecasting a greater loss for End of Fiscal year.

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve renew annual membership with Board on Track. Motion duly made by Bruce Greenwald, seconded and approved by Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Brigitte Bentele, Paul Libretta, Larry Slous, Nicole Schmidt, and Hayden Chan.

Governance Committee

Paul Libretta - Looking within 60 days to find potential candidates for the Board.

Facilities Committee

Bruce Greenwald – 138th street facilities TCO expired and landlord is working on the renewal. The Fire Department is seeking a copy of TCO. Hopeful additional space will be made available as the timing has been pushed back considerably. Conducted an extensive conversation with a realty company regarding 153/3rd avenue 154/4th avenue, ED feels the location is too far away to be embraced by our current parents which may lead to a potential 20% loss of scholars.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayden Chan, Secretary