



# The Bronx Charter School for Children

## Minutes

### Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bronx Charter School for Children

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**Date and Time**

Thursday December 15, 2022 at 4:30 PM

**Location**

388 Willis Ave, The Bronx, NY 10454

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87933960302?pwd=VEZ2clVxSU5MRXYyVnJwOTRmZlZrdz09>

Meeting ID: 879 3396 0302

Passcode: QWt5Qk

One tap mobile

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+19292056099,,87933960302#,,,,\*546132# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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**Trustees Present**

B. Greenwald (remote), H. Chan (remote), J. Carris, J. Ehrenberg Rosen (remote), N. Schmidt, P. Libretta (remote)

**Trustees Absent**

L. Slous, M. Aveledo, M. Samuel, S. Blair

**Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened**

J. Carris, N. Schmidt

**Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned**

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H. Chan

**Ex Officio Members Present**

D. Alexander (remote)

**Non Voting Members Present**

D. Alexander (remote)

**Guests Present**

Anastasiya Rosenbaum (remote), Candice Manzano (remote), Tina Maiuolo (remote)

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**I. Opening Items**

**A. Record Attendance**

**B. Call the Meeting to Order**

J. Ehrenberg Rosen called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Bronx Charter School for Children to order on Thursday Dec 15, 2022 at 4:33 PM.

**C. Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes from Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bronx Charter School for Children on 11-17-22.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

**Roll Call**

B. Greenwald	Aye
N. Schmidt	Aye
J. Carris	Aye
P. Libretta	Aye
M. Aveledo	Absent
J. Ehrenberg Rosen	Aye
M. Samuel	Absent
H. Chan	Aye
S. Blair	Absent
L. Slous	Absent

**D. ED Report**

Scholar highlights. We added 3 more Students with Disabilities(SWD). There have been changes for SWD related programs such as speech services; these are an ongoing challenge year over year. DOE provides a reporting agency that coordinates with school to make arrangements for SWD services. 8th grade scholars who require speech therapists feel ostracized, and therefore, remote services will be offered.

Occupational Therapists are funded by the DOE, schools provide ROE and agencies schedule based student IEPs. Since the pandemic all these services have stopped. We had one OT who was assigned to our school in the past, instead now we are offering remote OT but it isn't ideal.

With our Increase our SWD scholars, we have enough services 40% ICT/60% general ed. Our special education coordinator is working with Tina and Denise since there may be a need for 5th grade services as well. Our goal is 65-

70% mastery in summatives which provides a good indication for transitioning to the next grade and testing. K - 1 on track to meeting our year end goals. In the second trimester will try to institute two summatives. How are we addressing the scholars that are not hitting the goals? We work on strategies to increase support for scholars to progress on their summatives. Summative I in 3rd grade is number sense, Summative II is tables and graphs. Math skills do not have a linear progression. MS took mock ELA, Math.

N. Schmidt arrived at 4:40 PM.

Bonnie Halloran arrived 4:46 PM

Emily Conrath arrived 5:02 PM

## **E. Principals' Report**

Tina Principal

Tina noted that she is helping teachers this year to track data. Both schools have been implementing weekly quizzes in order to track and project summatives to provide support for scholars that are identified by tracking quizzes. Blended learning in grades 3-5, 8 of 9 classes doing it consistently. Feedback - we understand why we need it, and will be able to better identify scholar needs. We are working one-on-one with the teachers to review their progress and other ideas.

Middle School

Bonnie Halloran spoke about activities in the Middle School; blended learning has been implemented. With respect to student recruitment, students are enrolling but there are issues with many of them. They need to be carefully onboarded – many want “to do whatever they want to do,” and are not used to disciplined routines. There have been some suspensions as a result of these behaviors. Some students have entered with few skills in English and are lacking proficiency in mathematics as well. (If students have been in the United States for less than one year, they are not required to take the state ELA test.)

J. Carris arrived at 5:28 PM.

H. Chan left at 5:30 PM.

## **F. Board of Trustees Candidate**

Ken Blomster was interviewed by the Board for Board membership. He worked at Arthur Anderson until 2002 and then to PWC, audit side of the house. SEC and internal control specialist IPO, SEC filing advising, working non US teams. Keen interest in kids in NYC. He feels he would be a good fit for the Finance and Academic committees.

Board members are excited and Ken brings great set of skills to the School.

We have an annual event, a cultivation event was last held in 2020, grants. Hired a new director of development.

We do not get a lot of support on the state level. Fighting for space and equal access. Our funding has not changed yet. Charter schools have been very resilient.

Development professional for 20 years, started in education, public service management - nonprofit and philanthropy, community centers, youth centers, national nonprofit with healthy meals. Start date Jan 23rd.

Motion to To approve Ken Blomster candidate for Board membership.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

## **II. Committee Reports**

### **A. Academic Committee**

Jane spoke about the Academic Committee, and its meeting on December 12. The Blended Learning Model was implemented on November 28 – most teachers are doing it quite well - there has been some “push back.” This model is primarily Tier 1 instruction. Tina indicated that she sees the students more engaged with this strategy. In mathematics, students must be proficient in the addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. Lucy Gentile talked about the creation of a worksheet for solving problems that will be implemented in grades 2-5.

With respect to testing, we give NWEA tests in the beginning, middle and end of the year. Summatives are given every 6 or 7 weeks and are based on content and skills in a particular unit. Quizzes are given frequently to assess learning and understanding. Mock tests (tests that replicate the SED test format) are given two or three times each year.

## **B. Development Committee**

Director of development

Emily Conrath accepted our offer and will become the new Director of Development beginning in late January. She was introduced at the meeting and was asked a few questions. Welcome, Emily! Jane asked everyone to note that time is short for the Annual Appeal prior to the end of the calendar year. The Annual Appeal funds will be focused on supporting enrichment activities (music, theatre, sports) for our scholars.

## **C. Finance Committee**

Anastasia Rosenbaum reported out on the finances of the School. She reported \$5.4 M in holdings, The deficit predicted at the end of the fiscal year is \$488K. The budgeted amount is \$148K.

## **D. Governance Committee**

The Board interviewed Ken Blomster candidate for Board membership. He was approved by the Board. The Bronx Charter School for Children Board of Trustees, having conducted a thorough background check via a fingerprint scan as required and having discovered no State or federal criminal history, or having provided such history to SED if found, has voted to select Ken Blomster as final candidates to its Board of Trustees, with a term expiring on July 2023, pending approval by SED. The resolution is formally adopted upon SED’s approval.

Another candidate for Board membership, Michael Marks, has been interviewed by the Governance Committee. He will visit the School and meet Denise soon.

Jane noted that she has been interviewing candidates for the Secretary to the Board and has one that she will likely invite to serve in this position, Jonathan Jimenez. Thanks to Sydney Blair who did the initial interviewing for this position.

Sadly, Jane reported that Larry Slous has decided to leave the Board. He has been a major supporter of our School and has been on the Board for about fifteen years. He will continue to work for the School – especially in the areas of finance and facilities. Thank you, Larry.

## **E. Facilities Committee**

Candice noted that the elevator at 388 Willis has been repaired and is functioning. The light is still out in the elevator at 423 138th Street.

Bruce and Denise talked about the availability of additional space at 423 138th Street (on the second floor). At present, Denise is determining how this would be used, how it would need to be outfitted, and then Bruce and Larry will negotiate lease (until 2025) and the cost with Oren Sendowski. Bruce also talked about the 629 Courtlandt building and the “fit-out” proposed for that space which is slated to be completed by Fall 2024.

### **III. Closing Items**

#### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
J. Ehrenberg Rosen