

The Bronx Charter School for Children

Board Meeting Minutes

May 20, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Bronx Charter School of Children was held virtually on May 20, 2021, at 4:30pm.

The following members of the Board were present:

Denise Alexander (Ex-Officio, Executive Director), Brigitte Bentele, Sydney Blair, Joanne Carris, Hayden Chan, Bruce Greenwald, Krista Hammond, Paul Libretta, Jane Ehrenberg Rosen (chair), Mark A. Samuel, Nicole Schmidt, and Larry Slous.

Guests included Bethany Goldszer (Director of Development and Community Partnerships), Candice Manzano (Director of Operations), and Anastasiya Rosenbaum (Director of Finance) as well as members of the Academic Staff: Lucy Gentle, Bonnie Halloran, Tina Maiuolo, and Marina Mason.

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 April 22, 2021, in the form previously circulated.

Executive Director Report

Denise Alexander answered the questions raised about the ED report via email (attached). She elaborated on the changes in the key design elements for next year about which there were some concerns.

Academic Committee

Lucy Gentle, Bonnie Halloran, Tina Maiuolo, and Marina Mason commented on the Student Achievement Data (attached) for grades K-2. There have been 6 sections per grade due to Covid. Students in the lower grades have benefited from being in the building, though some students have greater success at home without distractions. Teachers have recorded lessons which have been helpful especially to MLL students. There are online programs for independent learning.

Development Committee

Bethany Goldszer expanded on the Development Report (attached).

Finance Committee

Bruce Greenwald reported that the April budget is in line with expectations. Funds from NY State through the American Rescue Plan Cares Act can be used to remediate loss of learning but

the amount is yet not known. Other uncertainties about enrollment and facilities for next year make budgeting for 2021-22 difficult, so two are being developed, a downside and best case. Bruce asked board members to review a draft of these budgets that he will send out. The 2021-22 budget will be voted on at the June Board meeting.

Governance Committee

Paul Libretta reported that members from each committee serve on an ad hoc committee to develop a 3-year plan to recruit 3 new Board of Trustee members who reflect the community we serve. The committee will draft goals and Jane Ehrenberg Rosen will send a statement regarding diversity which has been a source of criticism about the composition of our board.

Facilities Committee

Bruce Greenwald reported that he is working with architects about possible spaces: land for the development of a K-8 school at 631 Bergen with some space next door that could be used for 2-3 years; MS space without a full gym at 521 Bergen; and using the current location at 388 Willis with necessary adaptations. Also, there may be a possibility of subletting the space at St. Luke's since Success Academy doesn't intend to use it until the following year.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Bentele, Secretary