

The Bronx Charter School for Children Board Meeting Minutes July 31, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of The Bronx Charter School of Children ("TBCSC") was held on July 31, 2023, at 4:30 pm.

The following members of the Board were present: Maria Aveledo, Sydney Blair, Ken Blomster, Paul Libretta (President), Bruce Greenwald (Treasurer), Nicole Schmidt, Michele Smith, Jane Ehrenberg Rosen (Vice-President,) and Denise Alexander (Executive Director),

Absent: Joanne Carris, Mark Samuel

Guests included: Tina Maiuolo (Elementary School Principal), Bonnie Halloran (Middle School Principal), Emily Conrath (Director of Development), Anastaysia Rosenbaum (Director of Finance), Nora Clancy (Pasek Consulting).

The meeting was called to order at 4:35p by Paul Libretta, Board President.

Principals' Reports: The Principals reported to the Board about summer school, retention, and upcoming Professional Development. New teachers will report on August 14 and all teachers will report on August 16. The Professional Development in August will focus on academic excellence and include on-boarding with the handbooks, procedures, and the Teaching and Learning Framework.

APPROVED: The minutes from the June 15, 2023 Board meeting were approved with corrections.

Executive Director's Report: Denise talked about the work toward completion of the Renewal Application and thanked Nora Clancy and Violet Cole for their help. Nora commented on our application and noted that the budget in the first year is acceptable, but the years following may present a problem. She indicated that we need to look at the effectiveness of our administrative structure. We need to plan for cases where we do not hit our revenue targets; we need to think strategically about how we operate our school. Nora stated that our academic performance has been strong and our sub-groups have performed well. When asked her opinion of what is likely to happen in Albany with this application, she (Nora) said that "they do not appear to want to close schools. This is the first cycle after Covid where they will have two sets of test scores to use in approving applications."

The Board talked about the policy changes and the application:

- Admissions – this policy clarifies our process and eliminates a deadline for our admissions process.

- Grievance – the Board discussed this and decided not to move forward until changes are made to this policy. (At this time, we decided to hold a special meeting on August 10 to approve things left undone.)
- Length of School Year – *from* 10 more than DOE calendar *to* 180+. This change makes it more flexible to establish the calendar. The Board will accept this.
- Code of Ethics – the Board needs a Code of Ethics and one has been prepared.
- By-laws – the by-laws have been reviewed and updated by our attorney including an expanded conflict of interest policy.
- Key Design Elements – there are three design elements going forward, instead of four
Academic Excellence – Developing Critical Thinkers
Nurturing the Whole Child
Building Partnerships
The Board will accept these three.

APPROVED: The Board approved the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Article III, Section A, Paragraph 4 of the By Laws of the Bronx Charter School for Children (the “School”) states that the Board of Trustee’s (the “Board”) has the power to “approve [...] policies that will guide the management and implementation of the Corporation and School’s programs and operations.”

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves and adopts the following policies, dated on or after the date hereof, in substitution of and superseding all the prior such policies;

1. Revision of Admissions/Enrollment Policy
2. Revision in Instructional Days (from 10 more than the DOE to 180+)
3. Adoption of Code of Ethics

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval and adoption of these policies, such policies are to be forwarded to the School’s charter entity, the State Education Department of New York State.

Adopted August 1, 2023

APPROVED: The Board approved the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Article XI, Section B of the By Laws of the Bronx Charter School for Children (the “School”) states that the Board of Trustee’s (the “Board”) may amend [...] the Bylaws at any meeting of the Board of Trustees at which a quorum is present, by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Trustees present.”

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves and adopts the amended Bylaws as presented to the Board at the meeting held on August 1, 2013 in which two-thirds (2/3) of the Trustees were present.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval and adoption of the amended bylaws, such Bylaws are to be forwarded to the School's charter entity, the State Education Department of New York State.

Adopted August 1, 2023

APPROVED: The Board approved the following resolution.

WHEREAS, Article III, Section A, Paragraph 4 of the By Laws of the Bronx Charter School for Children (the "School") states that the Board of Trustees (the "Board") has the power to "approve [...] policies that will guide the management and implementation of the Corporation and School's programs and operations."

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves and adopts the new "Key Design Elements/Core Values" including combining two and consolidating to three Key Design Elements/Core Values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, as these are "Material" changes with the charter application renewal such changes are to be forwarded to the School's charter entity, the State Education Department of New York State as part of its pending charter renewal application.

Adopted August 1, 2023

APPROVED: The Board approved the Renewal application to be submitted to the State Education Department on August 15 (2023) for our sixth charter renewal. The application has been prepared by Pasek Consulting.

We will not vote on the FY24 Budget until next month.

Academic Committee. Maria Aveledo reported that the committee will meet next in September.

Governance Committee. This committee has two potential Board candidates – both referred to us by Board Assist. Gustavo Garcia will be at the next Board meeting.

Finance Committee. Bruce reported that construction has begun at 629 Courtlandt.

Development Committee. Emily reported that that we did not receive the Charter School Expansion Grant, but it was a good exercise and new grants have been submitted recently.

Facilities Committee. Denise indicated that we have all facilities materials/documents for the Renewal application save two: Cert. of Occupancy for East 138th Street and the Fire Inspection sign off. The latter is initiated by the Fire Department; they have the inspections on their schedule.

There was further discussion on several issues:

- Tara Cox has “hit the ground running”; she introduced an Instructional Planning Report with an item by item listing of tasks for teams to work on including scope and sequence.
- The Principals will be leading all Professional Development in August.
- We need to keep an eye on kindergarten enrollment; we have scheduled two sections. Our recruitment is continuing at fairs, Farmers’ Markets.
- Denise is working with Emily on upcoming grants; we may be able to realize resources for related services for special students.
- Denise will ask Nora to prepare a new draft of the Grievance Policy that is more specific especially about the formal grievance process.
- We will hold a special Board Meeting on August 10 @ 4:30p to approve outstanding items for the Renewal Package. Candice will send out the link for this meeting.

APPROVED: The Board approved the appointment of Ken Blomster to be the Board Secretary effective immediately. This position was left open at the Annual Meeting in June (2023).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:38p.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Acting Secretary