

The Bronx Charter School for Children
Board Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2023 4:30pm

A meeting of The Board of Trustees (The Board) of The Bronx Charter School for Children (TBCSC) was held on November 16, 2023, at 4:30pm.

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

Absent: Mark Samuel

Guests included: Tina Maiuolo (Elementary School Principal), Bonnie Halloran (Middle School Principal), Candace Manzano (Director of Operations), Emily Conrath (Director of Development), Anastasiya Rosebaum (Director of Finance), Tara Cox (Director of Education) and Maxine Grant (assistant to the Board)

The Meeting was called to order at 4:33pm by Paul Libretta, Board President

APPROVED: The minutes from October 19, 2023, were approved without changes.

Executive Director’s Report

Denise Alexander presented the Executive Report: The Charter Renewal preparations are underway and will be discussed with Board Members. She presented an update on four current issues:

1. Executive Leadership Meeting - Thank you to Nicole for hosting the Executive Leadership Team on Monday. The team was able to assemble and spend the day brainstorming and developing future plans, without incurring the usual associated costs. The following were areas of focus:
 - a. Teacher practices/effectiveness, training and retention
 - b. Student enrollment
 - c. Prioritizing Revenue Stream
 - d. Developing an action plan for deliverables with more measurable goals
2. Possible partnerships with a High School
 - a. Goal is to increase enrollment – How such a partnership will contribute to our enrollment efforts is the biggest question.
 - b. With a partnership we can develop a social/emotional/academic framework of support for each other through High School placement.
3. MS Transition Plan
 - a. Develop support system for families as the School transitions to the new facility at 629 Cortlandt.

- b. We were invited to participate in activities at PS1 Elementary School across the street from the new Middle School.
 - c. This presents unique opportunities for recruitment and increased enrollment due to proximity.
4. New Discipline Regulations
- a. The State has issued new regulations on the discipline of children in schools. These include not using certain restraints and holds on children as well as regulations on padded rooms.
 - b. These have never been BCSC policies, so our habits or students are not really affected.
 - c. Our attorneys are redrafting and updating the discipline code by the end of next week and it will be ready before our State visit.

A more thorough review of enrollment numbers will be circulated for Board Members. While enrollment numbers have decreased throughout New York City, the SED does not appear quick to act, due to how widespread the issue is.

Committee Reports:

Academic Report

Tara Cox

We are focused on our Academic Achievement Plan separately for each school and the impact this concentrated effort is having. There is also more focus on Teacher practices and how we can best support our Teachers and therefore our Scholars. The committee is developing specific goals for our SWD and MLL Scholars to get stronger outcomes, and we are excited at the results thus far. We are developing a measurable action plan for each School, and how to set more tangible goals.

Math Camp is paying early dividends as it allows our Scholars to work in small, targeted groups. Scholars are also getting more exposure to State questions, learning to use models to think through their questions and benefiting from the more intensive immersion. There will be more to come on The Science of Reading.

As Ken requested, we are also reviewing how to mitigate the unexpected and prepare for the surprises that inevitably occur in learning environments.

Development Committee

Emily Conrath

Our increased goal for fundraising this year is \$75,000, and we are excited to have donations already coming in before our email requests are sent out. We are grateful that 100% of our Board has donated every year and look forward to that being the case again this year. We have received a few grants in and are awaiting several others - most notably, the \$942,000 grant for three years is still pending. We have also sent out additional grant requests. Just a reminder that emailed

invitations to donate will be sent out next week, followed by two additional email reminders. We are currently reviewing ways to boost our fundraising efforts in the Spring. Each Board Member has a unique URL, so you can keep abreast of all donations. Our Friends and Family donation efforts have also increased so staff is more involved in donation efforts. We will incorporate some social media posts to help with the campaign.

Finance Committee

Bruce Greenwald

The most recent financial statements were distributed to Board members. Our enrollment numbers have increased since the beginning of School, and that has helped us increase our revenues.

Governance Committee

Shiksha Kaushik is our newest Board member.

Facilities Committee

Bruce Greenwald

We are continuing to work on 629 Cortlandt. We had a site visit last Thursday and remain encouraged at the rate at which the work is being completed at 629 Cortlandt. That said, there is still some uncertainty regarding whether we will open on time for the start of the school year. We will have to make a decision on that soon, and soft costs associated with either outcome is already being addressed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12pm.

The next meeting will be held on December 21, 2023 at 4:30pm.