



The Bronx Charter School for Children

Minutes

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

Date and Time

Thursday January 19, 2023 at 4:30 PM

Location

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4396831599?
pwd=YzByc1pncWxYK1Q5Y09ESUEwczA0dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4396831599?pwd=YzByc1pncWxYK1Q5Y09ESUEwczA0dz09)
Meeting ID: 439 683 1599
Passcode: TBCSC

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

J. Carris, M. Samuel, S. Blair

Trustees who arrived after the meeting opened

P. Libretta

Trustees who left before the meeting adjourned

M. Aveledo

Ex Officio Members Present

D. Alexander (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

D. Alexander (remote)

Guests Present

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

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 Jan 19, 2023 at 4:33 PM.
Board of Trustees

C. Approve Minutes

B. Greenwald made a motion to approve the minutes from the Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Bronx Charter School for Children on 12-15-22.
J. Ehrenberg Rosen seconded the motion.
The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

D. ED Report

NWEA MOI testing pushed back a little, not all scholars finished testing we expect to finish testing everyone by Feb 1st. Data analysis of NWEA assessment will provide the opportunity for us to focus on scholars requires the most support.

We are conducting Professional Development reviews on Tier 1 instruction with the blended learning model, then crafting lessons around those scholars.

Middle School teacher vacancy is negatively impacting our day to day academics for 6th grade Math and 8th grade ELA. We had a long term math substitute teacher filling in but he decided to leave as we were not able to meet the compensation threshold. Currently we assigned 3 teachers, Bonnie and DCI to provide coverage until we fill the position.

A Simple Survey was conducted in December on school climate pertaining to safety, active partnerships and family school relationships. Our results show only 3% unsatisfied. February we will start family meetings and open forums for families to give feedback and provide updates on new school initiatives for K-8.
We are planning 2 more surveys for parents by the end of year

Scholars recognized and celebrated - academic, behavior, school culture.

Onboarding new scholars, we need to provide scholars and family need more support. New Middle School student initiatives include families meeting with the Director of Curriculum and reviewing Code of Conduct, School uniform are issued. New students are buddied with older students to help scholars adjust to new school.

Middle School is still trying to hire Spanish teacher for this school year. Currently our substitute teacher is providing support this year.

Bethany Goldszer and Emily Conrath will review databases, grants and prospective grants.

We will partner with "French Toast" (uniform makers) to order uniforms online at a reduced cost. They have the plaid 76 color in an abundance required by Middle school and "Cookies" (uniform maker) are more expensive.

Enrollment is increasing month by month in Students with Disabilities (SWD) and Multilingual Learner (MLL). Status of our Notice of Corrective action, our level of SWD scholars in relation to Community School District 7 is around 90.7%. January, we will be actively recruiting 5th grade scholars of our Middle School.

Do we have an FSA? No we do not.

High School placement - we have not received any notices of acceptance. Bruno Marchan identified 4,5,6,7 grade scholars to start additional High School preparatory programs to start in trimester 3 such as after school sessions for specialized schools. No scholars applied to schools for talent. We expect to hear notices by end of Feb. Scholars get to apply to 4 schools. From past experience most scholars got their 1st choice. Bruno helps scholars and family navigate High School options based on their GPA, attendance and where do you stand in being accepted to certain schools. He helps them choose schools to match the scholars needs. A significant numbers of kids to apply out of the Bronx this year. Are we supporting the kids at and above grade level? We focus on scholars that demands the most support i.e. MLL, SWD. We also look at scholars at or above grade level and are taken into account when planning.
M. Aveledo left at 5:00 PM.

E. Principals' Report

Tina

Started teacher evaluations. Hold observations in ELA and math, conducting them one-on-one. Midyear NWEA testing has begun and we are very excited. K-2nd grade started already and 3-5th grade start next week. We are seeing improvement in K-2nd grades in small group testing as we receive the results right away and are able to translate that into growth.

Bonnie

Started teacher evaluations, working with DCI and we anticipate reviews to be completed by January 31. We have 3 more reviews outstanding. Today we had National History Day finishing projects, practice research/presentation. Student Council eager to vote, list of agenda items. Supporting uniform/cellphone compliance.

Question: What type of feedback is being provided to the teachers by the evaluations process? We have a Rubric that offers an opportunity for teachers give specific, concise and actionable feedback for student learning. Question: Do you hear from teachers about their needs to support them? Question: In one-on-one debrief, teacher asked what did you like about the lesson? How can the DCIs and Principals support teachers? Evaluation process - observation in classroom, classroom strategies.

F. Charter Renewal Support

Jane and Denise have engaged In discussion with Jamal Young for the past month. We are considering his services in addition to other consultants. Jamal submitted a proposal 10 days ago. We sent follow up questions and he was not responsive. The fee was higher and he raised the fee by a 1/3 after we asked questions.

We are working on a 5 year renewal. Last time we were limited to 40 pages, this time it will be submitted by portal. We need to agree on values, missions.

We currently have 5 core values. We are considering reducing the number of core values from 5 to 3. Ensuring a safe environment is a given. Question/comment: Part of the history of the "safe environment" was the parents emphasize on this.

Key design elements viewed by NYS. 10 - 12 years ago "Ensuring a Safe Environment", nurturing the whole child now is a given.

Presented by Denise

Social-Emotional learning (SEL)

- 15 years ago, it was optional
- now standard
- Want scholars to feel comfortable with their identities, manage emotions, show empathy, make responsible decisions.
- Soft skills
- Schools are required to have SEL, multitiered program.
- Key design element - nurturing the whole child
- Benefits to SEL, leads to improve academic outcomes, long term benefits, wise financial investment to grow students to exemplify our core values, improve academic outcomes.
- SEL is infused throughout the day. Recognize kids k-5, morning meetings 20 - 25 meetings 6-8 advisory: teachers use curriculums k-5 Sanford Harmony, Second step (6-8th) Approach perseverance and tolerance strategies.
- School wide events - Community Meetings, celebrations, Public recognition, Morning announcements.
- Director of curriculums and engagement works with teachers. Student complete surveys, parents have workshops available to them
- SEL is not Wrap-around services
 - Wrap-around
 - provide scholars and family with serious or complex needs, typical, beyond academic and social emotional
- Lack of critical thinking, does SEL
 - encourage perseverance through schoolwork

Tina

- Popsicle stick feeling chart, kids note their feelings on a particular day; teachers can address them

Bonnie

- Teaching how to de-escalate feelings that will take away from learning, conflict is normal and how to deal with that, help students expand their tool box

Plan to discuss wrap-around services next month.

We would like to have everything prepared for the Renewal prepared by April.

Candice has been working on student recruitment. It has been tough to obtain target district information due to pandemic and post pandemic for sub-groups. Every ELT member has a benchmark to address. Majority of application is retrospective.

Need a board resolution to revise core values from 5 to 3.

P. Libretta arrived at 5:49 PM.

II. Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Review of summatives, scholars spend 6-7 weeks in a unit and our expectations are high 60+ results. Noticed in 3,4,5,7th grades that there is work to be done as they did not perform as well. We ask the question whether they are learning and mastering contents.

B. Development Committee

Emily is joining on Monday

C. Finance Committee

Ana

We do not have final financials for December. We are in the middle of the 2nd federal funding audit. Completed updating 5 year projections and new year budget.

Bruce

Will distribute final December financials when available. We need 5 year projections for renewal. We need to approve proposal from UPC (firm for assist in dealings with developer of 629 Courtlandt) at the moment the cost is very high.

The proposal was not circulated, we need to send a signed copy in order to engage with them

Had discussion with Oren about 123 E. 138th Street and 388 Willis, 138th street has an additional floor available to us. We are interested in space to consolidate all three Middle School grades. Denise and Bruce toured the space today. We will not move middle school this year. Rent is being negotiated. We propose taking the space at a minimum until to 2025 and have the option to negotiate beyond that term. Maintenance and rent 240k per year, the main benefit is 6-8th grade will be in one location.

J. Ehrenberg Rosen made a motion to Approve the UPC contract of the owners rep for 629 Courtland building.

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

Roll Call

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

D. Governance Committee

We thought we had Secretary to the Board; he is unsure. Denise, Jane and Hayden spoke with Board on Track (BOT). We may not stay with BOT as the value is not there.

E.

Facilities Committee

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 5:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. Chan