

The Bronx Charter School for Children

Board Meeting Minutes

May 19, 2022

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Bronx Charter School of Children was held virtually on May 19, 2022, at 4:30pm.

The following members of the Board were present:

Denise Alexander (Ex-Officio, Executive Director), Brigitte Bentele, Bruce Greenwald, Paul Libretta, Jane Ehrenberg Rosen (chair), Hayden Chan, Nicole Schmidt, and Maria Aveledo

Absent were: Mark A. Samuel, Sydney Blair, Joanne Carris, and Larry Slous

Guests included Richard Gonzalez (Middle School Principal), Tina Maiuolo (Elementary School Interim Director), Candice Manzano (Director of Operations and Development). Anastasiya Rosenbaum (Director of Finance), Ben Kaplan (Top Agency) and Jackson Carpenter (Top Agency)

The meeting was called to order at 4:33pm.

Executive Director Report

Presented by Denise Alexander. Staff Benefit survey was not attached, it will be disseminated after the Board Meetings. Based on Staff feedback we are brainstorming various ideas such as flexible scheduling, where every other Wednesday teachers leave 30 minutes early. This will result in 6 hours a month reduction for professional development. The Staff Benefit survey contained 10 questions and the top consideration was compensation, with flexible schedule being a far second. This summer there will be two programs available for our scholars. Middle School will engage in High School test preparation for SSHST or ISAGNY. Employing the Kaplan and Princeton Review. Bruno will supervise these test prep skills. Lavinia Rides curriculum covers ELA and Math, both Middle and Elementary school teachers will be required to attend training. These programs are available due to a generous Bloomberg Summer Rise \$50mm grant. Academic and Enrichment will be available this summer to include Dance and Cheerleading. Lavinia Grant offers \$2,000 per child, teachers \$100 per hour, \$50 per hour for training. This grant was not originally included in our budget. The Grant will cover 4 hours a day and 5 days a week for 5 weeks instruction with one week of development.

Before the Lavinia Grant was finalized, 5 teachers were committed for summer school. Our teachers have always had high interest in participating in the Summer Programs and with the addition of the grant this solidified their determination to be part of the summer program.

Marketing Presentation by Top Agency

Presentation by Jackson Carpenter and Ben Kaplan of Top Worldwide.

Position TBCBC value proposition as a contrast to Success Academy and Eva Moskowitz. Help

TBCSC communicate our support for the most vulnerable population in our neighborhood, where we help families and scholars with our wrap around service. Position us as experts of different subset of vulnerable families. Highlight our focus on our learner's homelessness as part of our Family Support Services.

Principal Reports

Presented by Tina Maiuolo and Richard Gonzalez

Tina Maiuolo - Preparing for end of year reading and math level for placements for the following year. Some teachers are reaching out to scholars who may require additional schooling. NWEA testing cohorts to see how they are performing. Teachers are being assessed, one on one feedback, working with leadership. Activities going forward include field trips to the library around the block, 5th grade dance and an awards ceremony. We feel such activities like this will helping with morale, getting back to pre COVID excitement. In the past there was a big Kindergarten and 5th graduation. Kindergarten will have a moving up ceremony this year and families will be able to attend in person. 4th and 5th grades will be presented awards and medals. Awards and Bridging ceremony will be conducted, walk over to the Middle School to give them a sense of where they will be going.

Richard Gonzalez - Testing is completed for Middle School and the observation window is open, starting next week. One to One meetings starting next week. Vision meeting for next year to prepare the scholar to be the greatest scholar. Teacher and parent/families pizza night will be conducted to provide families information on what to expect next year like applying to Charter and Public High Schools Mr. Marchon - route to potential Spirit week next week - increase morale for scholars and teachers "End Strong" especially for 7th graders as it is important for applications for High Schools.

Academic Committee

Overall observations for students with language difficulties, all testing should be completed by May 21. All math exams completed.

Development Committee

Ongoing biweekly call with search firm. Strong candidate provided this week, works and lives in the Bronx, strong grant writing skills, and the ability to create robust fundraising campaign. The candidate is excited about our open position and will meet with this potential candidate soon. This is an ongoing search.

Finance Committee

Anastasiya Rosenbaum - April statements per pupil funding under budget, substitute spending is higher than forecast. Year-end projections show a net surplus. We have cash on hand for 6 months. ESSR grants (non recurring), favorable expense due to unfilled staff. 2022 - 2023 budget modifications will be reviewed from now to June. The budget is extremely challenging to forecast due to difficult enrollment projections caused by increased competition and later final decisions from families on the school they plan to attend. Staff positions have been favorable variance since we still have open positions. Anastasiya is working on a 5 year projection, in the

context for the middle school lease. T-Bill and CD primary investments. Investors bank not able to accept deposits from NYS Charter investors.

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve Form 990 "Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax" at 5:33 pm.

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve the total compensation in the budget at 5:39 pm.

Governance Committee

Paul Libretta – TBCSC Policies were reviewed with outside counsel. Next year we need to make another thorough review due to Charter school renewal. Cynthia from Board Assist is still recruiting for new Board members. Christopher joined his community board. Financial disclosure forms needed to be dated before Jun 30, 2022. Adding a part time paid position Administrative Secretary.

Terra Winston has interviewed several people and is expected to finish work at the end of June beginning of July.

Strategic Planning / Renewal

Denise and Jane planning for what comes next. Future renewal, application June/July 2023. Before we do that we need to look at where we are to examine the mission and core values to see where the direction we are going. The board should go through the same exercise. Charter period 2024-2029. There are 10 benchmarks academic, community, parents, social emotional learning, etc. Retrospective - what we have done to accomplish core values, mission in the last five year. In the past we hired a consultant, he formerly worked for the NYS department. Denise will search for consultants to assist with the renewal. We want to be sure what we have created is part of our renewal. Our reputation is that we do a lot with scholars and families. Where we will be in 5 years, we may not be a standalone school.

Benchmarks – Denise Alexander

Renewal includes how we upheld our mission and supported our core values. School culture, social emotional learning "whole child". Now there are accountability measures. Student with disability enrollment - we had a citation, not on a corrective action plan. We are compared to the community school district. Board should review the charter framework in detail. Meeting parents around our core values. Engagement with communities beyond our local community, the larger community. We will bring everyone together in the fall for strategic planning.

In the past it has been an enormous burden on the staff. Recruit another consultant with more extensive contacts in NYS and find someone to manage the project

Facilities Committee

Bruce. Greenwald - MS Facilities' Update.

629 Cortlandt signed LOI a month ago, received a draft of lease a week ago. Bruce and Larry reviewed and changes were provided to our attorney, Lisa Holtzmeier to review. Likely the Board to approve the Executive committee to sign the lease. Denise and Candice have spent time touring and provided a lot of input. We decided against building a rooftop gym. We asked the Architect to build a model, \$5k was not in the original scope of proposal. \$3.8k agreed upon overage. Space will be available no later than summer of 2024.

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve the Architect compensation of \$5,000 additional work not in the original scope of proposal and compensation of \$3,800 agreed upon overage at 6:15 pm.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayden Chan, Secretary