

The Bronx Charter School for Children

Board Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2021

A meeting of the Board of Trustees (the “Board”) of The Bronx Charter School of Children was held virtually on July 15, 2021, at 4:32pm.

The following members of the Board and Administration were present:

Denise Alexander (Ex-Officio, Executive Director), Hayden Chan (Secretary), Bruce Greenwald, Krista Hammond, Paul Libretta, Jane Ehrenberg Rosen (chair), Bethany Goldszer (Director of Development and Community Partnerships), Candice Manzano (Director of Operations), Anastasiya Rosenbaum (Director of Finance), Sydney Blair, Mark A. Samuel, Nicole Schmidt, Carmen Umpierre (K-5), and Richard Gonzalez (MS).

Brigitte Bentele, Joanne Carris, and Larry Slous were absent.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The Board:

VOTED:

To approve the minutes of the last Board meeting held on June 17, 2021, in the form previously circulated.

Principal Introductions

Richard Gonzalez (Middle School) and Carmen Umpierre (K – 6) both started on July 1, 2021 and introduced themselves.

Medical Insurance Presentation

Jonah and Josh Smith presented HRA (Health Reimbursement Arrangement). Introduction provided by Anastasiya Rosenbaum with the opportunity of serving employees better and reduce overall costs. Projected savings of \$ 95k with proposed plan. Working with carrier, broker and provider for plan to be effective as of September 1, 2021.

Executive Director Report

Actively recruiting students, two former students may return for middle school. Awaiting guidelines from CDC, DOH, NYC mayor and NYC governor for fall semester. Summer professional development for K – 5 and Middle School. Staff schedule to return to school on Aug 9th to prepare for return of students on Aug 23rd. Denise is attending emergency SED meeting tomorrow and will share developments.

Academic Committee

Denise Alexander will share ED report in August. Engaged in End of Year and Beginning of Year planning reviewing all data points, working with leaders on testing, attendance, teacher development, curriculum and academic goals for 2021 – 2022. NYSESLAT testing starting before school beginning of school year, scholars working one-on-one with certified ENL teacher

Development Committee

Bethany Goldszer reported \$45k annual fundraising, \$7k in memorial of Suellyn Preston Scull and \$5k awarded by People's United Bank. Ariel Santos memorial to commence at the start of the school year to support school music lessons.

Finance Committee

Anastasiya Rosenbaum nothing to report, in the process of closing books for year end. August audit with Derek Flanagan. Five year plan largely driven by increased space and headcount puts pressure on resources.

VOTED:

To approve Loci Architecture proposal for consulting services contract.

Governance Committee

Jane Ehrenberg Rosen reported Paul Libretta appointed Vice President and Mark A. Samuel as Chair of Governance Committee. Resolutions created to reflect changes. Special recognition to Brigitte Bentele and Larry Slous for their current and ongoing services on the board.

Facilities Committee

Bruce Greenwald -

Oren Sendowski, our landlord, informed us the space he owns at 138th and Willis unexpectedly became available. AECI charter HS, was working on new space and will be moving out of this space earlier than expected, approximately 20k sq. ft. and can house the 6th and 7th grade. 388 Willis to house one K – 5 this school year and K-6 in following years. In last 24 hours we discovered there no CO in this space and operated with TCO and which expired in 2019. Oren Sendowski is working on expediting renewal of TCO, no promise when this would be completed. SED and Insurance, state waive CO requirement? State non-committal on moving in the space without CO.

Lease is fully negotiated, will not sign or submit check until CO issue is resolved.

631 Bergen - K - 8 conversion of the building ending up not being affordable. SED requires 25% reserves on operations on the balance sheet. Soft costs would have create enormous strain on the school. Notified broker and owner did not come back to us.

149th and 3rd avenue may house 3 grades if all space is made available right away. A schedule was provided to owner. Need facilities by Aug 15th, likely impossible. No response from 149th street.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayden Chan, Secretary