



The Bronx Charter School for Children

Minutes

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

Date and Time

Thursday November 17, 2022 at 4:30 PM

Location

388 Willis Avenue
Bronx, NY 10454

Trustees Present

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

Trustees Absent

J. Carris, M. Samuel, S. Blair

Guests Present

Anatasiya Rosenbaum (remote), Candice Manzano

I. Opening Items**A. Record Attendance****B. Call the Meeting to Order**

P. Libretta called a meeting of the board of trustees of The Bronx Charter School for Children to order on Thursday Nov 17, 2022 at 4:45 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

P. Libretta made a motion to approve the minutes from October Board Meeting on 10-20-22.

M. Aveledo seconded the motion.

4:46 PM

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

D. ED Report

Action walks align to teaching framework. Nothing new to note from last months report. Virtual Parent Teacher conference goal is to reach 95% participation rate.

Einstein program requires parent and scholar commitment from grades K - 8th grade. Einstein has been supporting DOE and we were one of two charter schools chosen for deployment in District 7. Summer development grant was paid in two installments. The summer program was well received by teachers and scholars. Those scholars who participated in Summer Boost performed slightly better.

Audit will be conducted in two parts due to the receipt of Federal fund (ESSR).

Teacher evaluations planned for first week of December 2022, now rescheduled to January 2023 due to blended teaching model.

Supervision of Principals

ED is supporting and supervising the Principals to focus on teaching and learning, including managing parents and teachers to support DCI and academics. Parents want to be heard and have us responding in a timely matter.

Middle School to High School

We have not had any 8th graders taking the SHSAT due to the pandemic, now we are restarting for the 6th grade. We are identifying students as early as 4th grade to assess abilities that demonstrate talent and outstanding abilities in visual arts to prepare portfolios. 8th grade science will be taking regents exam. Bruno is contacting organizations to supply materials. Director of Curriculum, Principal and Bruno working together to get hours and content for High School programs. 2 - 3 years ago we spoke about reverse engineering teaching for SHSAT.

Requirements for High School have changed this year, i.e. course credits and hours has specific units to comply. Bruno is part of a citywide group which met during the summer where they shared experiences about the process of applying to Specialized High Schools. One 5th grade student got accepted in 6th grade independent school.

Community Service Program

No program at the moment. Starting in January 2023 to prepare build out a program.

Vaping

Caught scholars with vape pens and vaping in the school in the bathrooms. There is technology for detecting Vaping but expensive. 1st time offense suspension, 2nd time pre expulsion. 423 site observed the vape shop sold products to underage kids. 6th grade students admitted they were addicted. Parents are surprised and angry.

Increase of SWD to 17% highest level for TBSCS.

Claims of personal injury

432 site incident moved to litigation, first hearing was in March. We are being represented by our insurance company. Involves a 6th grade student last year not in 7th grade with us.

388 request to acknowledge representation.

E. Principals' Report

Tina/Bonnie

Elementary faculty speaking with parents and focused on teacher feedback in the teaching and learning framework. Provide additional assistance to the teachers to support the scholars to move them forward. The Blue and Greens Scholars are scoring 85 - 90 in summatives.

NWEA

Took test in September, goal is to move scholars from Red to Blue band. That movement will show how well prepared they be from the following year. Based on the NWEA data on a student level we reevaluate instruction? Grouping? Overall we agree with the results of NWEA correlation with the State Tests results. Has implications on blended learning is the gold standard to help customize learning to specific scholars. Middle School is facing the challenge of filling 3 vacancies and difficult to procure subs.

F. 2022-2023 Scholar Recruitment Plan Presentation

Candice Manzano

Ended the year 485 enrollment, 84 scholars in the beginning of the year signed up and did not return for the school year. Now focusing on recruiting and retention.

Started earlier to follow up with scholars that were not returning or unsure. 22 scholars that were not returning and 14 unsure. Working on increased social media exposure, more workshop for new and existing families, meet the MS Principals, tours, street fairs and family events.

Scholar Attritions

64 scholars did not return this year, mostly parental choice 21%. Tina was shocked that the parents were not informed of retention. During the parent teacher conferences did not provide enough information about retention levels.

Primarily not academically ready for the following year. Enrollment at 531 not including loss of 12 scholars. Some proactive measures taken to better inform families were 4th and 5th tours, highlight Middle School, Meet the Principal, Participate in MS events, increase academic celebration, hold teacher more accountable and brunch and learn.

Recruitment strategies same as last year plus one more mailing.

Lottery Apr 2022 510 this year 558, of which 558 only 5.7% was recruited. Online common application. We offered all the seats before the lottery. Community District 7 is saturated with charter schools.

We need to strengthen our brand and local visibility. Zeta is the only school with a waiting list.

II. Committee Reports

A. Academic Committee

Focused on reaction logs, blended learning there are a couple item will be roll out soon. How will we track metrics going forward.

B. Development Committee

Two potential candidates for the board and there are more meetings schedules. Board needs review the Annual Appeal letter for sports program. Love will provide envelopes.

C.

Finance Committee

Anastasiya has the financials and will send to the board. September revenue matched budget, October very close to budget, projecting year end loss. Auditors required certain ESSER 3 income to be booked in 21-22 rather than in the current year, as originally contemplated.

499 students, projected accounted for 9 positions not being filled. We are expecting another 30 students to be enrolled.

Larry Slous Left 6:09 pm

D. Governance Committee

ED evaluation Mark and Denise will meet tomorrow.

Terra Winston mid and end of year checking points with Paul. Prioritize coaching with Denise, then follow up with board. The contract is for six month and have the option to extend 12 coach 12 board project. Diversity is great but we never have a full board, once we have a full goal and then try to achieve. Self imposed cap of 13 we can go up to 15. Diversity of thought and experience as well. Walton Foundation and Charter School Grow Fund express a desire for more diversity.

Recruitment of Ken and Michael.

Approve contract by the Board

Bruce motion

unanimous

Nicole, Hayden, Jane, Paul and Maria

E. Facilities Committee

138th street elevator and pipes are resolved. The CO has not been resolved. 629 Courtland in pre-permitting stages engaged in discussion on tenant representation of work. Not change in time table as of yet.

III. Other Business

A. TBCSC and Marketing

Reduced costs of the Top Agency contract and Candice got referrals from for agencies profit. Top Agency have not done work for schools. The proposal felt very generic and made a few changes to fit the school. Did not feel they had the sense of our school. The PR piece felt more ambitious, alternatively we can bring in firms that specialize in PR and marketing. One of their strong suits is the approach of inward to outward branding, the PR was an added bonus. These four agencies were referred to us by other charter schools. Recruitment agency, NY charter center and other schools. Need marketing and branding support. What makes our school special and how we differentiate. Zeta and Success have a branding team on staff and some of the other agencies more focused on website redesign. Top Agency has a larger team with more services available and help develop a strategy.

Tracking our scholars after they leave, in the past Bruno and Candice worked on that.

IV. 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 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
H. Chan