

MINUTES: Board Meeting on February 25, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Bronx Charter School for Children was held virtually on February 25, 2021 via Zoom.

Present: Denise Alexander (Ex-Officio), Brigitte Bentele, Hayden Chan, Greenwald, Krista Hammond, Paul Libretta, Jane Ehrenberg Rosen, Mark A. Samuel, Nicole Schmidt, Suellyn Scull, Larry Slous

Absent: Sydney Blair, Joanne Carris

Guests: Bethany Goldszer, Director of Development and Community Partnerships; Candice Manzano, Director of Operations; Anastasiya Rosenbaum, Director of Finance

Jane called the meeting to order at 4:32pm. The minutes of the virtual January meeting were approved as emended.

Executive Director Report (attached)

Denise reported on the situation with a hybrid versus a remote model. After a Special Education teacher left, students were moved into another section. Parents choose the hybrid or remote model for their children. A class needs to be remote only or hybrid only and since hybrid only would require students to change teachers, Denise decided on having all classes taught remotely only. Furthermore, there has been an uptick in positive Covid cases among students and teachers. Regarding the Charter School Growth Fund, the Board needs to engage in development, for with BoardOnTrack working with us. Denise will send Power Point slides regarding this. Board members are required to complete an electronic assessment within a week for which we received a link. Our one-on-one Governance Coach, Brianna Stuczynski, will lead us through training. Denise is in conversations with other leaders about board development.

Academic Committee

The Chair of the Academic Committee is charged with overseeing the hiring process. During the past year, all hiring has been done virtually. For the Middle School principal, one candidate will meet with parents soon and then with the Board. There are two other potential candidates.

Facilities Committee

Bruce updated that the committee will have a virtual meeting with St. Lukes next Monday. They haven't responded to financial concerns. There are two other charter schools competing for the site. The committee intends to terminate the broker representatives who haven't been moving the process along but they maintain the right for 12 months for any place that they showed us. Nicole has a long history with ABS Partners Real Estate, LLC, and they are now looking for swing spaces as well as ground-up space for a K-8 school for us. They know the Bronx and are aware that a developer can increase its footprint for a charter school. A written notification for termination will sent to Lee Allen. Oren Sendowski, the owner of 388 Willis, hasn't responded about potential spaces. The Board approved retaining Lisa Holzmuller, a real estate attorney, to

work with Barton Gibson. At 388 Willis, Candice reported on the ongoing problem with leaks and that a window is cracked.

Development Committee

When the school was founded, a Friends organization, which holds the lease and other development materials, was established by Eleanor Sypher, the founder and past president of BCSC. Anastasiya reported that the name of this organization was changed to Friends of TBCSC and Albany sent a certificate with that change. This organization needs to have a board, with a maximum of three members serving on both boards. Eleanor Sypher will serve as director of Friends of TBCSC. Krista reported on the three phases of the capital campaign: pre-planning, planning (marketing), action (execution). We are raising money for phase II. There needs to be better communication between committees. Bethany expanded on the Development Report (attached). She is building communication in order to maintain awards. She praised Eleanor for her recommendations about grants, each of which has been funded.

Finance Committee

Anastasiya reported that January revenue was \$932,000 under budget due to one-time items such as less per pupil money and that expenses were higher primarily due to architecture expenses with a deficit of \$195,000. Health insurance renewal has been moved to July 1. There is enough money to fund six months.

Governance Committee

Paul had sent the Employee Handbook to Board members prior to the meeting for review. The Board approved the handbook with changes that were suggested.

Discussion about Race and Equity

Denise would like to form a subcommittee of the Board to work with her on the issue of Race and Equity. Krista, Paul, Jane and Mark volunteered.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Bentele