

MINUTES: Board Meeting on June 18, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees of The Bronx Charter School for Children was held virtually on June 18, 2020 via Zoom.

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

Absent: Sydney Blair, Mark A. Samuel

Guests: HuiWon Choi, development consultant of Ampersand Fundraising, Jo Kim, Financial Director, Candice Manzano, Director of Operations and Development

Jane called the meeting to order at 4:37pm. The minutes of the virtual May meeting were approved as emended.

Head of School Report: School closure

Denise is waiting to hear from the governor about reopening plans for 2020-21 which is expected for July 13. She and the staff are planning flexibly for various scenarios. Graduations are being held virtually on June 19. Candice will send links for board members who wish to attend. Denise is communicating with parents about reopening.

Development Committee

Hui Won gave a year-end report which Krista had sent to Board members before the meeting. She reported on the 2020 highlights and the 2021 goals, in terms of the case for support, board development, annual appeal, institutional support (foundations), Director of Development, Infrastructure/communications. Denise and Jane thanked HuiWon for the work that she has done and the pleasure she has been to work with.

Academic Committee

The staff has been working hard since school closed and have not had a break. All students will be enrolled in Summer School and teachers will be BCSC staff.

Finance Committee

Jo reported on the monthly finances with the projection better than hoped for. The insurance will have a greater increase because of the additional liability for the Middle School. The Board approved a motion for the insurance coverage and rates pending a review. The Board approved a retainer for David Sweeney, a real estate developer, and for an architect who may be needed for their work for the school. Both payments would come from the LISC funds. Candice reported on the need for a server upgrade, with one new physical and three virtual servers. Since the Microsoft platform and the Cloud may not be secure, it was suggested that she get a second opinion. The work would take 3 weeks to complete. Denise is concerned that funds may not be available to hire additional staff to support teachers in the 4th and 5th grades. Several Board

members that we must hire the teachers that we need to educate the children. The annual budget which was distributed at the May board meeting was approved unanimously.

Governance Committee

Hayden Chan's board membership has been approved by the state.

Facilities Committee

There is no update. The Committee is continuing to evaluate spaces, both to lease or purchase.

Responding to Systemic Racism

Denise would like the Board to respond to what is happening in the country and world over the past weeks. There have been discussions of race, class and culture internally and the Board needs to take a stance. Denise will send out information and Krista volunteered to head a committee to pursue the topic.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brigitte Bentele