

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held at Proskauer Rose LLP, 11 Times Square

Date: Tuesday, November 19th, 2019

Notice of the meeting was duly given to members of the board and the public.

Trustees in attendance: David Zurndorfer, Mónica de la Torre, Noah Leff, Catherine Aquila, Stephanie Durden Barfield, Jeffrey Katzin, Marlene Nadel, Gail Schargel, Elaine Schott, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal. Vanda Belusic-Vollor joined by phone. Benjamin Felt joined by video conference.

Also present: Eric Weingartner, Melissa Silberman, Matthew Molloy, Paul Hale, Courtney Fox (minutes).

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m., with a quorum.

Joaquin Pichardo – BSA Board Candidate

Melissa Silberman introduced Joaquin Pichardo as the candidate for the BSA Board Caregiver Representative. Mr. Pichardo's son is a new 9th grader at BSA this year. He also has four nieces and nephews currently at the school.

Approval of Minutes of October 15, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes for the part of the October 15th meeting, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

Head of School Report

Ms. Silberman reported that average daily attendance was 86% in October, which was an increase from 85% in September. She presented on enrollment, with a current total of 319 students. She noted the school is still operating on a budget for 310 students.

Ms. Silberman introduced Matthew Molloy, the Dean of Humanities, and Conor Hale, the Dean of STEM, who presented on academic success at BSA. Mr. Molloy and Mr. Hale reviewed Regents scores from the prior academic year. Mr. Hale noted a general downward trend in pass rates between 2017-2018 and 2018-2019. He gave several possible explanations for the shift, including more students sitting for each exam and less instructional time due to block schedule in 2018-2019. To improve Regents exam pass rates for the upcoming year, Mr. Hale described efforts to increase class time by 25% with a new bell schedule, as well as more tutoring and exam preparation opportunities.

Mr. Molloy and Mr. Hale also described the course sequences that have been established this year. They further detailed that teachers meet weekly in grade-level teams and by department to coordinate and link course content. Mr. Molloy stated that English-Language Arts and Social Studies classes are practicing the same writing protocols to increase cohesion across courses. Mr.

Hale indicated that math and science classes are planned to mirror and build upon one another. The academic team also noted future initiatives around academic success, including more AP course offerings and a robust summer bridge for new 9th graders.

Charter Renewal Application

David Zurndorfer announced that Eric Weingartner and Ms. Silberman have selected a consultant, Pasek Consulting, to assist with the renewal application. Ms. Silberman reviewed the rigorous vetting process employed to select a consultant. She noted that the consultant is doing an initial visit at the school next week to meet with administrators and develop a work plan.

Treasurer's Report

Noah Leff reviewed highlights of the financial report, including a projected operating surplus. Mr. Weingartner commented on grant funding obtained for the school this year.

Development

Cathy Aquila reviewed plans for the upcoming gala and noted that 400 guests plan to attend. Mr. Weingartner thanked the Board members for their outstanding support of the gala. Mr. Zurndorfer thanked Cathy for her leadership.

CEO Report

Mr. Weingartner announced that he has appointed an Interim Acting Executive Director for The Door. He is currently interviewing search firms and has created a search committee, comprised of board members and staff, with a goal of recruiting a new Executive Director by Summer 2020. In addition, he is developing a transition committee to consider the needs between BSA and The Door with the opportunity for new leadership.

Mr. Weingartner also noted that the administrative team from The Door will be relocated to a subleased space on Wall Street. This will allow The Door to have more operating space for programming.

Lastly, he stated that a request for proposals has gone out for the BSA audit.

Board President's Comments

Mr. Zurndorfer announced that Julie Shapiro is resigning from the Board as she steps down as Executive Director of The Door.

He reminded the Board that the December 17th meeting will be held at Broome Street Academy.

At 7:31 p.m. the board then adjourned.