

## Broome Street Academy Charter High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held at Broome Street Academy, 555 Broome Street

Date: Tuesday, December 17<sup>th</sup> 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, Herb Elish, Catherine Aquila, Stephanie Durden Barfield, Benjamin Felt, Jeffrey Katzin, Gail Schargel, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal. Vanda Belusic-Vollor joined by phone.

Also present: Melissa Silberman, Eric Weingartner, Meredith Soffrin, Courtney Fox (minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 9:11 a.m., with a quorum

### Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes for the November 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

### Head of School Report

Melissa Silberman stated the school is holding at an enrollment of 315 students. She anticipates 3-4 students transferring out and accepting a few new students to start the second semester.

Ms. Silberman provided an update on staffing. Teaching staff has been retained this fall at 100%. She noted four new hires – Director of College and Academic Services, Outreach Coordinator, Guidance Counselor, and Community Safety Aide.

### Social Work Services and Mental Health at BSA

Ms. Silberman introduced Meredith Soffrin, the Director of Social Work at BSA, who started at the school in August 2018. Ms. Silberman detailed Ms. Soffrin's professional background, which includes clinical work at New Alternatives for Children and CAMBA.

Ms. Soffrin provided an overview of Mental Health Services at BSA. There are four social workers on staff who offer mandated, general, and crisis counseling to students. The social workers work closely with the deans and special education team to support students. In addition, one social worker specifically engages with truant students as part of the school's attendance intervention and dropout prevention efforts.

Ms. Soffrin detailed that 142 students are currently in formal treatment at BSA. In addition, 40 students receive services at The Door's clinic. Students at The Door's clinic have the option to see a psychiatrist for a psychiatric evaluation and/or medication management. Ms. Soffrin meets weekly with the clinical supervisor at The Door to track students accessing services there.

Ms. Soffrin also described the Ohio Scales, a mental health screening tool used by the school. It takes about 12 minutes to complete and students are surveyed 3-4 times a year. The tool asks

students to rate different things they have been going through in the last 30 days; the social work team flags high ratings related to use of drugs, self-harm, talking or thinking about death, and/or feeling hopeless or worthless. Based on their responses, students can be referred to counseling at the school, at The Door clinic, or to psychiatric services at the Door.

Lastly, Ms. Soffrin explained how students in BSA's catchment are tracked and supported at the school. Ms. Soffrin stated that 115 students have at least one risk factor (temporary housing, foster care, preventative services, ACS). Information about students' housing or foster care status is most commonly obtained through self-report, questions included on the Ohio Scales, and ATS reports.

Courtney Fox reported that the SUNY Active Ingredients is underway. Three questions have been added to the Ohio Scales to survey students about perceptions of mental health at the school. The team will also explore the relationship between counseling services and student attendance.

#### Charter Renewal Application

David Zurndorfer announced that Pasek Consulting has been selected for BSA's charter renewal application. The consultants will be attending the January Board meeting.

Eric Weingartner and Ms. Silberman echoed an excitement about the selection. They noted that BSA is starting the renewal process early and is on an excellent timeline.

#### Resolution Authorizing CEO to Sign Contracts

The Board approved the attached resolution authorizing the CEO to sign contracts on behalf of the Academy.

#### Resolution to Approve Joaquin Pichardo as a Member of the Board

The Board approved the attached resolution concerning Joaquin Pichardo.

#### Development

Mr. Weingartner highlighted that the gala brought in 30-35% more revenue than the prior year. The Board discussed strategies to keep gala guests involved, including tours of the building.

#### CEO Report

Mr. Weingartner announced that Peter Gee, former Chief of Staff at The Door, will serve as the Interim Executive Director of The Door. A consultant has been hired to run the search for a new Executive Director. Transition and search committees have also been established.

Mr. Weingartner noted several efforts to increase visibility of BSA and The Door in the media through print and video features.

Resolution to Approve Revised Committee Membership List

The resolution to approve the revised committee membership list was postponed.

Board President's Comments

Mr. Zurndorfer noted that he and Mr. Leff had met with Rachel Levine, the COO of The Door, and had reached agreement on several finance-related matters.

At 10:37 a.m. the board then adjourned.