

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

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

Date: Tuesday, February 11th 2020

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

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

Also present: Melissa Silberman, Eric Weingartner, Peter Gee, Courtney Fox (minutes)

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Active Ingredients Video

Melissa Silberman shared a video produced by SUNY about the Active Ingredients project at BSA. The video features social workers and administrators describing mental health services at BSA and the implications of the Active Ingredients project.

Ms. Silberman noted that she attended SUNY's Active Ingredients Conference in early February. At the conference, she had the opportunity to share with school leaders from around the country about the BSA model. The response to the model was very positive.

Door Services Utilization Report – Peter Gee

David Zurndorfer introduced Peter Gee, the Interim Executive Director of The Door. Mr. Gee joined University Settlement and The Door in 2015 as the Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships. He then became the Chief of Staff of the Door in 2018.

Mr. Zurndorfer provided background on the development of the Door/BSA utilization goals. Ms. Silberman and Mr. Gee presented on goal progress-to-date.

Ms. Silberman thanked Mr. Gee for his commitment to pushing forward with the goals during the leadership transition. She noted that the goals have been a great opportunity to reflect on the quality and quantity of the work within the partnership.

a. Adolescent Health Center

Mr. Gee noted that 35% of students have received clinical care in the Adolescent Health Center. The goal is to have at least 50% of students access care. Ms. Silberman indicated increased efforts at partnership with leadership at the Health Center.

b. Mental Health:

Mr. Gee highlighted that 100% of students who have sought counseling at The Door this school year have been offered services.

c. Career & Education:

Ms. Silberman expressed enthusiasm for the progress on the Career and Education goals. So far, 73% of students have had a touchpoint with The Door's Career and Education team.

Mr. Gee stated that Ms. Silberman's professional expertise has been helpful in supporting the Career and Education Programs at BSA. He noted that most of The Door's program is focused on out-of-school youth, and Ms. Silberman is able to provide direction and support in regard to supporting in-school young people.

Ms. Silberman highlighted that the school has received 160 SYEP seats for summer 2020, which is 20 more seats than last summer. The SYEP team will be using results of a school-wide career interest inventory to help place students in relevant internships.

d. Legal:

Mr. Gee reviewed the legal services offered by The Door. He described a new effort at partnership between BSA and The Door's Legal department around ESOL/ELL classes. He noted that the Legal department has been providing some capacity building support to BSA staff around resources for students who are undocumented. The Board recommended tracking BSA students who are referred to other agencies for legal support.

Preliminary Discussion of Proposed Addition of Afternoon Academy

Mr. Zurndorfer introduced a discussion of expanding BSA's program to include an Afternoon Academy. In order to better serve diverse student needs, BSA leadership is considering launching an evening program (2pm-8pm) for students who are over-aged and under-credited. Mr. Gee stated that the proposal has the strong endorsement of The Door's program leadership.

Mr. Zurndorfer summarized the Board response as overall positive. The Board expressed interest in hearing a more fully developed proposal at a future meeting.

CEO Report

The Board met in executive session for the CEO report.

Head of School Report

During the Head of School Report, Ms. Silberman reported on attendance trends. Overall attendance was lower in January than in the preceding months. This was likely due to Regents week and long weekends. Ms. Silberman described several new programs and initiatives to encourage student attendance, including a recent hot chocolate event.

Ms. Silberman also reported on enrollment targets and the admissions strategy for 2020-21. She described an increase in marketing initiatives including more newspaper ads, more mailers, and a Facebook campaign. She stated the goal is to double outreach to middle schools and continue building partnerships with service agencies. She reported that 272 students have applied, compared to 242 at this time last year. The admissions strategy is to accept 250 students with the intention of having 100 new freshmen for 2020-21.

Ms. Silberman noted a 13% increase in pass rates on the January regents in 2020 compared to 2019. She stated that the academic team prioritized testing students in their 4th or more year of high school who need Regents exams to graduate in June. Ninety students took exams. The overall pass rate was 48%.

Ms. Silberman reported on Semester 1 grades and stated that 75% of students are passing three or more classes. This is a 6% higher pass rate than last year. She noted that the lowest pass rates school-wide are in math and described upcoming interventions to push on academic rigor and support. The school has added co-teachers to 15% of classes and doubled enrollment on Edgenuity for credit recovery. The new Guidance Counselors are also addressing any errors in student programming so the entire student body stays on track to graduate. Ms. Silberman also described targeted intervention for 9th and 10th grade students who attend school daily but are still failing three or more classes.

At 7:45 p.m. the board then adjourned.