

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held by videoconference and phone.

Date: Tuesday, February 16, 2021

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

Trustees in attendance: David Zurndorfer, Mónica de la Torre, Catherine Aquila, Benjamin Felt, Elaine Schott, Jeffrey Katzin, Gail Schargel, Vanda Belusic-Vollor, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal, Noah Leff, Lauren Blum, Herb Elish and Stephanie Durden Barfield joined by videoconference. Also present: Melissa Silberman, Eric Weingartner, Reeham Ahmed (minutes), John Quinn

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m., with a quorum

Board Candidate John Quinn

David Zurndorfer introduced John Quinn as a prospective Board member. Mr. Quinn shared his professional background and his interest in joining the BSA Board.

Approval of Minutes of January 19, 2021 Board Meeting

The minutes for the January 19 meeting, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

Head of School Report

Ms. Silberman reported that BSA's enrollment target for the 2020-21 school year will be 305 students and that our current enrollment is still 320. She noted that retention and promotion will both impact the upcoming recruitment cycle. Ms. Silberman said that at the March Board meeting, the Admissions Director will provide an update on strategies for recruitment and adjusting to remotely recruiting students during the pandemic.

Ms. Silberman briefly discussed the return to school plans and which factors need to be considered and discussed in order to finalize the plan as we are approaching the hybrid deadline on April 12th. She assured the Board that it will be updated on the plans made at the next Board meeting. Mr. Weingartner added, from an operational perspective, The Door is prepared, but that it may be a logistical challenge as BSA operates in a hybrid model.

Ms. Silberman also discussed student performance during the pandemic. She reported that there was a high rate of engagement from students and caregivers reaching 95% overall sign on in Google Classrooms and that BSA is averaging a 10% higher pass rate than other charter schools. Ms. Silberman stated that the school is leveraging student engagement and social work services to promote academic achievement. Roughly two thirds of BSA students are meeting with social workers compared to the one third mandate.

Ms. Silberman briefly discussed the use of NX codes and incompletes as a trauma informed approach to keep students engaged. She reported that for the Fall Term 77% of BSA students either passed (50%) or had an incomplete (27%). 23% of students were failing compared to the 37% failure rate for Fall term last year. Students with an NX code or incomplete will be enrolled in credit recovery for the Spring which involves grade level interventions, individualized tutoring hours and increased daily check-ins and outreach efforts to engage students.

Ms. Silberman concluded with a discussion of the BSA Goals and Mid-year Check-in in the PowerPoint slides provided to the Board, reviewing the focus areas for the spring semester for each department.

Treasurer's Report

Noah Leff discussed the financial report for the first six months of the year, which had been distributed to Board members in advance of the meeting. He reviewed the cost increases as well as savings. Eric Weingartner added that although there are no particularly alarming revenue short falls in The Door' budget, since Medicaid funding for The Door is based on patient visits there is a significant reduction in revenue due to fewer visits. Ms. Silberman added that additional funds will need to be spent to incentivize and engage students in activities upon return; and that there have not been funds expended on students directly due to remote learning.

Investment Committee Update

Benjamin Felt reported that BSA's surplus stood at \$1.638 million, all of which is currently invested in money market funds earning very little interest. Mr. Felt asked Board members for their opinion on whether to revise the current investment strategy. The Board briefly discussed various investments that could be made moving forward and the attendant risks. The Board decided to maintain the status quo for now and to review the issue again in the Spring once the HOS has had the opportunity to identify the school's additional needs.

CEO Report

Mr. Weingartner reported that there will be a Town Hall meeting next month. He reminded the Board that the process of dividing administrative services with University Settlement is ongoing, and he will be able to report on the progress that's been made at next month's Board meeting. Mr. Weingartner concluded with a reminder that next month will be his last Board meeting as CEO and he will provide updates at that time on work that will be transitioned to Ms. Silberman, Mr. Zurndorfer and others.

Ms. de la Torre updated the Board on the CEO search.

Motion

Motion to submit the name of John Quinn to CSI as a proposed Board member was approved unanimously.

At 7:12 p.m. the Board then adjourned.