

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

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

Date: Tuesday May 18, 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, Gail Schargel, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal, Lauren Blum, John Quinn, Herb Elish joined by videoconference, Vanda Belusic-Vollor, Stephanie Durden Barfield, Elaine Schott, Jeffrey Katzin, Joaquin Pichardo joined by phone.

Also present: Melissa Silberman, Kelsey Louie, Meredith Soffrin, Sanjay Dutt, Reeham Ahmed (minutes), Fernando Lorence

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. with a quorum

Kelsey Louie

David Zurndorfer introduced The Door and Broome Street Academy's new CEO, Kelsey Louie who will start on June 28, 2021. Mr. Louie briefly shared his professional background and his current role as CEO at Gay Men's Health Crisis. He further discussed his social work background and extensive experience working with youth, families, and communities of color. Mr. Zurndorfer shared that the announcement of our new CEO, Mr. Louie will be made public on May 19, 2021.

Approval of Minutes of March 16, 2021 Board Meeting

The minutes for the March 16 meeting, which had been previously circulated, were approved.

HOS Report

Ms. Silberman shared some highlights about incoming freshmen and current enrollment. There are 127 incoming freshmen, and BSA's class target is 120.

Ms. Silberman shared that BSA will hold two graduations: one on June 28 and the second on August 13 for August graduates.

Ms. Silberman reviewed the Summer Programming. She shared the multiple offerings that will be provided to BSA students beginning July 6 through August 13. These include the Freshmen Bridge Program, Credit Recovery two-week courses, Six-week academic recovery courses and Summer Youth Employment in which there are 127 student employees enrolled. Ms. Silberman concluded that the estimated student involvement is 70% of student body and an estimated staff involvement is 50% of faculty.

Relationship with New Visions for Public Schools

Ms. Silberman announced BSA's new partnership with New Visions for Public Schools. Ms. Silberman further explained New Visions focus on school improvement and adoption of their curriculum and timeline of

implementation. She discussed their focus on rigorous instruction, student-centered learning environments and parent and community involvement.

Ms. Belusic-Vollor stated this curriculum will allow teachers to provide continuity, stability and predictability of content to students. She also added that this will provide more opportunities for intense support like personalized tutoring and credit recovery. Ms. Silberman concluded with stating BSA's responsibility for driving high quality academics and announced Matthew Molloy as the new Associate Head of School.

Mr. Zurndorfer stated as that as a stand-alone charter school, BSA does not have the advantage and academic depth compared to other schools with larger networks, therefore, NVPS will be a great partnership to adopt and cultivate. The Board asked how the teaching staff has responded to this new partnership. Ms. Silberman shared that teachers are open to academic guidance and the announcement of this partnership was made to all faculty and that they are committed to adopting this new curriculum and will be attending summer trainings with NVPS.

Meredith Soffrin- BSA's Dean of Social Services

Ms. Silberman introduced Meredith Soffrin, and shared that she has been promoted from Director of Social Work to the Dean of Social Services. Ms. Soffrin reviewed the current mental health team's work, explained the primary routes to mental health treatment at BSA, and that 128 BSA students are currently in counseling. Ms. Soffrin shared that 54 students are IEP mandated to a BSA social worker and 11 students are engaged in counseling at The Door. She added that another intern will join BSA in the fall which will provide additional services to students.

Ms. Soffrin briefly shared the goals of the Champ Model. She then discussed the Active Ingredient Project with SUNY and current updates. Ms. Soffrin concluded with discussing the new tiered approach to trauma.

Ms. Jaxheimer-Argawal asked about the use of the Columbia-Suicide Severity Rating Scale (C-SSRS). Ms. Soffrin confirmed the use of this safety assessment by all social workers at BSA.

Board Candidate Fernando Snowden-Lorence

Mr. Zurndorfer introduced a potential Board member, Fernando Snowden-Lorence. Mr. Lorence remarked on how impressed he was by BSA's work. He briefly discussed his professional background. Mr. Lorence shared his interest in joining the Board and discussed what skills he would bring to the Board if accepted.

Motion to Approve Third Renewal Charter

Third Renewal Charter was approved.

Budget for FY22

Mr. Zurndorfer shared that the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 is on track to be shared with the Board by next month. He shared that the Finance Committee reviewed the draft that was prepared by Mr. Morton and Mr. Dutt and Ms. Silberman. Mr. Zurndorfer stated that Mr. Leff will share the final budget for the Board to approve at the next Board Meeting.

Coronavirus Relief Aid

Mr. Zurndorfer shared that \$1.3 million was allocated to BSA for use during a 4-year period from March 2020 to September 2024 to address learning loss as a result of COVID. Ms. Silberman explained that BSA is working with Mr. Dutt to use the funds in a strategic way over the next 5 years. Mr. Dutt stated we are using \$200k in the fiscal 2021-2022 budget.

Program Committee Report

Ms. Belusic-Vollor discussed the Program Committee meeting and reported that Mr. Molloy shared plans for the fall including: BSA's partnership with NVPS, academic updates and academic interventions.

Joining in Justice

Catherine Aquila reported there are 116 guests registered for the Joining in Justice Event and \$162k has been raised so far. She shared that the event provides an opportunity to learn about The Door services. Ms. Aquila shared that the event is free and provided the link to register for the event tomorrow at 6pm.

Schedule of Future Board Meetings

The schedule for future board meetings was sent to the Board prior to the meeting.

Motion to Submit the Name of Fernando-Snowden-Lorence as Proposed BSA Board Member

Fernando-Snowden-Lorence as a Proposed BSA Board Member was approved.

Motion to Set Fixed Number of Trustees

Set Fixed Number of Trustees was approved.

At 7:28 p.m. the Board adjourned.

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