

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held in person and by videoconference

Date: Tuesday, October 19, 2021

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

Trustees in attendance: David Zurndorfer, Sarah Weeks, Elaine Schott, Herb Elish (videoconference), Stephanie Durden Barfield (videoconference), Cathy Aquila (videoconference), Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal (videoconference), Jeffrey Katzin (videoconference), Noah Leff (videoconference), Gail Schargel (videoconference), Monica de la Torre (videoconference), Alexandra Wood, Lauren Blum, Vanda Belusic-Vollor (videoconference)

Also present: Melissa Silberman, Kelsey Louie, Reeham Ahmed, Sasha Hixson (minutes), Brandon Boyd, Madelyn Lin (videoconference)

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am, with a quorum.

Approval of Minutes of September 21st, 2021 Board Meeting

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the August 17th meeting, which had been previously circulated.

HOS Report

Ms. Silberman highlighted the school's steady enrollment, 314 students. She reported that attendance is strong, with 9th grade showing the highest attendance rate and 12th grade showing the lowest attendance rate, a recurring pattern for BSA students. The school's overall attendance rate is 80%.

Ms. Silberman reported on the School's culture and morale. She reported that two teachers have resigned, and teachers throughout the school are reporting exhaustion at this early point in the school year.

Ms. Silberman reported that students are also experiencing higher amounts of stress and frustration, noting that there was a fight in the cafeteria. Ms. Silberman acknowledged that students are still needing to talk through their quarantine experiences, and BSA's social workers are working with students to help them process that.

To better understand how teachers are doing and to address their concerns/needs, Mr. Louie and Ms. Silberman will conduct a listening and learning tour. Mr. Louie explained his methodology for this listening and learning tour with the staff and stated that this will aim to shift the culture at BSA to one that encourages open and honest dialogue about community needs.

Ms. Silberman reported that BSA staff is 100% compliant with the city vaccine mandate.

Ms. Silberman reported on some achievements at BSA. Ms. Silberman highlighted BSA's completion of the PSAT for the sophomore class, with 90% attendance for the test. She also reported that six members of BSA's senior class are finalists for Quest Bridge and Posse scholarships. BSA is the recent recipient of a \$35k grant from Here to Here to support the collaboration between The Door and BSA. Finally, Ms. Silberman and Ms. Soffrin (Dean of Social Services) will be attending the National Association of Charter School Authorizers' annual conference to present on BSA's Active Ingredients work with mental health services.

HOS Goals for the 2021-2022 School Year

Ms. Silberman summarized the HOS goals for this academic year. These goals included four categories: Graduation, Credit Accumulation, Post-Secondary Success, and Organizational Goals.

- Graduation goals included an aggregate 4-year graduation rate of 75% in the 2018 Cohort, with an additional goal that the graduation rate of Students with Disabilities (SWD) in BSA's 2018 Cohort will exceed that of SWD in the City's cohort.
- Credit Accumulation goals aimed to see 75% of students in the 2020 and 2021 Cohorts earn at least five credits (22 needed for graduation) each year. Additionally, by the end of the 2021-22 school year, BSA aims to see 75% of students in the 2021 Cohort score at or above proficient on at least three NYS Regents exams.
- Post-Secondary Success goals included 85% of 2018 Cohort graduates enrolling in a 2- of 4-year program, 75% persistence among the 2017 Cohort enrolled in 4-year programs, and 50% completion among the 2017 Cohort enrolled in 2-year programs.
- Finally, Organizational goals focused on having 90% of staff members offered a contract in 2021-22 and returning in 2022-23, as well as ending the school year with an average student attendance rate of 90%.

Audit Committee Report

Mr. Leff reported on the status of the audit, stating that it is about to go into the last step of compliance review. The audit is due on November 1, 2021, and all BSA Board members are invited to the October 29th Audit Committee meeting.

The Board voted unanimously to authorize the Audit Committee to approve the audit on behalf of the Board in order to submit it to SUNY by the deadline.

Finance Committee Report:

Mr. Leff reported that the Board will see the proposed investment strategy at the November Board meeting.

Election of Board Officers

The Board voted unanimously to re-elect the current Board Officers, as previously circulated.

Fall Gala

Ms. Durden Barfield reminded the Board that the Fall Gala is on November 3rd, and invitations have been sent out. The gala honoree will be Hill Harper, actor, and activist. The gala's fundraising goal is \$1.3 million.

Resolution to Elect Marlene Nadel to Honorary Trustee

The Board voted unanimously to elect Marlene Nadel as an Honorary Trustee.

Resolution to Set Fixed Number of Trustees

The Board voted unanimously to approve the fixed number of trustees at 16.

CEO Report

Mr. Louie reported he will present on the goals that the BSA's Board identified for him as well as his goals for the academic year at the next Board meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am