

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held by videoconference

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2022

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

Trustees in attendance: Cathy Aquila, Lauren Blum, Stephanie Durden Barfield, Herb Elish, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal, Jeffrey Katzin, Noah Leff, Fernando Lorence, John Quinn, Gail Schargel, Sarah Weeks, Alexandra Wood, David Zurndorfer

Also present: Elie Bilmes (Great Oaks Foundation), Michael Duffy (Great Oaks Foundation), Sasha Hixson (minutes), Kelsey Louie, Matthew Molloy, Jen Perkins (Great Oaks Foundation)

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

High Dosage Tutoring – Great Oaks Foundation

Mr. Louie introduced Michael Duffy, President of the Great Oaks Foundation.

Mr. Duffy discussed the Great Oaks school model, which incorporates high dosage tutoring into the curricula for entire grade levels. He explained that Great Oaks has expanded and now places AmeriCorps Fellows/tutors in other schools.

Mr. Bilmes emphasized that their strategy is to engage all students in an entire grade at the same time. Fellows work with a consistent group of students during the school day, using a ratio of approximately 4-6 students per fellow.

Mr. Bilmes reported on the impact of high dosage tutoring on student learning:

- 81% of school leaders agree that Great Oaks Fellows at their schools are beneficial to student learning
- 75% of school leaders agree that Fellows at their schools are beneficial to student social-emotional development
- 15% more students who are served by Fellows met annual growth targets in the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Performance (NWEA MAP) in reading, compared to students not served by a Fellow
- 9% more students who are served by Fellows met annual growth targets in NWEA MAP in math, compared to students not served by a Fellow

Ms. Perkins reported that Great Oaks recruits a diverse group of Fellows, noting that 66.5% of Great Oaks Fellows identify as people of color. Ms. Perkins added that Great Oaks also provides housing options for the Fellows in addition to the AmeriCorps stipend.

Mr. Duffy elaborated on the structure of the AmeriCorps program, explaining that AmeriCorps Fellows are young people who volunteer for a year of domestic service work and are placed throughout the United States. AmeriCorps Fellows are given a living stipend of \$16,000 annually, as well as a \$7,000 grant to be used for undergraduate loans or graduate tuition.

Mr. Louie noted that BSA will hire a staff person to coordinate the engagement with Great Oaks, and this staff person will be paid via the Community Schools grant.

Mr. Molloy specified that BSA plans to host 10 Great Oaks Fellows to work with the incoming 9th grade cohort, and all Fellows would be expected to tutor in both Math and ELA.

Mr. Louie explained that BSA will commit to a one-year partnership with Great Oaks, and upon a positive assessment at the end of the first year, BSA will commit to a second year of partnership. This partnership will be supported by the ESSER grant.

Approval of Minutes of February 15, 2022 Board Meeting

The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes for the February 15, 2022 Board meeting.

Development Report

Ms. Aquila reported that BSA has been invited to apply for renewed funding from Arabella Advisors. As of February 2022, both Foundation and Individual Giving have surpassed BSA's budgeted goals for FY22. Overall, Foundations and Individual Giving combined have surpassed FY21 performance.

Mr. Louie explained that there are two types of donations that support BSA: (1) donations that go directly to BSA, and (2) donations that are given to The Door but support activities at BSA. In 2021, BSA's foundation support totaled \$657,000. Of that amount, \$467,000 was given directly to BSA, and therefore, is the number reported in the financials.

Mr. Louie reported that BSA budgeted \$392,000 in foundation support for FY22, and to date, foundation support totals \$470,000. Current total foundation support totals \$730,000 compared to \$657,000 at this time last year.

Mr. Louie explained the allocation of BSA's Arabella grant. \$360,000 of the grant flows directly to BSA, and \$140,000 supports a Door staff member who provides college advising to BSA students.

Mr. Zurndorfer explained that Arabella Advisors administers a grant to BSA from anonymous donors. BSA has been invited for the third time to apply for a grant from Arabella.

Mr. Louie reported that BSA's FY22 Individual Giving budget is \$350,000. To date, BSA has exceeded the Individual Giving target by \$41,000. However, compared to this time in FY21 BSA is behind by approximately \$38,000.

Ms. Aquila announced that The Door's and BSA's gala will be held in person on October 19th, 2022.

Redesign of BSA's Website

Mr. Louie reported that Doublespace was selected to revamp both The Door's and BSA's websites. The first phase of the project is a Discovery Phase, where the Doublespace team will meet with Door and BSA staff members to learn more about the organizations and to hear from different perspectives about what the new websites should accomplish. Combined, the cost of the project will be \$75,000. At the end of the process, Doublespace will provide a division of hours to appropriately allocate the cost between The Door and BSA. The anticipated completion date for this project is the Fall of 2022.

Teacher Salary Working Group

Mr. Zurndorfer explained that the Teacher Salary Working Group was created to support the Head of School during the process of salary proposals. The Group met and agreed to look beyond this year and understand how BSA salaries compare to other charter schools. Mr. Zurndorfer invited Board members to join the Group.

Strategic Planning

A motion to approve the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee was approved unanimously. The Board elected the following as members of the Committee: Jeff Katzin, Sarah Weeks, and David Zurndorfer. Mr. Zurndorfer announced that he was appointing Mr. Katzin as chair of the Committee.

Resumption of In-Person Board Meetings

The April 12th, 2022 BSA Board meeting will resume in person at BSA, with the continued option to join via videoconference.

Mr. Louie added that The Door's Joining in Justice event will be held virtually over the course of a week at the end of April.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.