

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

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

Date: Tuesday, July 21st, 2020

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, Stephanie Durden Barfield, Benjamin Felt, Gail Schargel, Vanda Belusic-Vollor, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal joined by videoconference. Herb Elish, Jeffrey Katzin, Marlene Nadel joined by phone.

Also present: Melissa Silberman, Eric Weingartner, Nora Clancy, Reeham Ahmed (minutes)

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

Approval of Minutes of June 16, 2020 Board Meeting

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

Plans for Reopening in September

Melissa Silberman briefly discussed a reopening plan for Broome Street Academy as leadership staff awaits guidance from the state. The current plan is to follow a hybrid teaching model in which each grade will attend school in person once a week. Ms. Silberman explained that there will be in person opportunities and remote instruction to cater to all students. In addition, she stated that there will be the option to allow students to learn at home if they wish to remain entirely remote.

Ms. Silberman answered questions regarding health and safety concerns of staff, and she emphasized that Broome Street Academy has responded appropriately by ensuring safety precautions will be taken and clear guidelines will be provided for staff, caregivers and students as per New York State guidelines upon return. Marlene Nadel asked if student's temperatures will be taken upon arrival to the school. Ms. Silberman replied that The Door has an arrival protocol which includes temperature testing and a questionnaire to confirm that students feel well prior to their arrival. She added that students who do not feel well, will be sent home and a negative COVID test will need to be provided before return.

Mr. Zurndorfer added that BSA's Reopening Plan must be submitted to CSI and State DOH by July 31st.

Head of School Report

Ms. Silberman provided an update on summer school. There are currently 140 students enrolled in summer school; 43 ninth graders, 57 tenth graders, 33 eleventh graders and 7 twelve graders. There are 10 courses offered to students this year and students can take up to three because of the opportunities in Edgenuity. In addition, a "Summer Bridge" will be provided every Wednesday for incoming freshmen. Students are introduced to staff, offered academics assessments, given

an overview of the program and provided a Mental Health evaluation to keep them engaged before beginning school in September. Ms. Silberman also gave an update on Summer Youth Employment, which was reinstated with 120 slots and 95 students had applied.

Ms. Silberman announced that three “think tanks” were taking place this Summer: Academic Rigor; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; and Student Voice/Restorative Justice. Each consisted of three conversations on these topics. It was estimated about one third of the school community had participated. She concluded that a one-page summary of their collective thinking and an action plan on what BSA should do to achieve these goals this year, would be produced by each think tank at the end of the last session.

Ms. Silberman gave an update on admissions and enrollment. To date, 100 freshman offers have been accepted and 50% have completed paperwork for enrollment. She stated that there are currently 312 students enrolled at BSA.

Mr. Weingartner announced that every incoming student will receive a Chromebook to enable remote learning. Ms. Silberman added that the device will be loaded like a school with programs and rigorous tools (e.g. Achieve 3000) to ensure students are being served holistically to aid in their learning and catered to their social-emotional needs. Ms. Silberman answered Board members’ questions about technology needs of incoming students and noted that emergency funds are budgeted for hot spots if needed.

Charter Renewal

Mr. Zurndorfer introduced Nora Clancy, BSA’s renewal consultant. Ms. Clancy provided an update on the process of the renewal application and highlighted important upcoming dates. Drafts of the various sections of the application have been prepared and will be discussed at the August 4th board meeting. The deadline to submit for approval is August 17.

Ms. Clancy also reviewed the results of the Board Self Evaluation Survey results that was completed last year by twelve Board members. She explained that the purpose was for the Board to conduct self-evaluations as a best practice tool on measuring performance for authorizers. She added this would help frame goals to support going forward when renewing. Ms. Clancy summarized that the survey was designed on knowledge of school performance on key benchmarks, efficacy and knowledge of academic program. The results demonstrated the Board’s overall commitment, involvement and passion about BSA.

Resolution to Amend Bylaws

A resolution to approve amendments to subsections 3 and 7 of Article VI C of BSA’s Bylaws (previously circulated) was approved by the Board.

Resolution to Amend Mission

A resolution was approved to amend BSA’s Mission to read as follows:

Broome Street Academy Charter High School will empower our students to reach their highest aspirations for post-secondary success. Our equitable, holistic, and student-centered approach

will help students access a rigorous standards-based curriculum, and our graduates will be equipped with the skills they need to make a positive impact on their communities and the broader world.

Resolution to Amend Admission Preferences

The Board approved a resolution to amend the lottery preferences to remove the “failing school” preference and add a preference for students who are economically disadvantaged.

Resolution to Approve Revised Complaint Policy

A resolution to approve a revised Complaint Policy (previously circulated) was approved.

CEO Report

Mr. Weingartner announced that the Door had been awarded a grant of \$1M over two years by Arabella Advisors on behalf of an anonymous donor to support wraparound services for students at BSA and the Door. In addition, Deutsche Bank had renewed a grant to BSA in the amount of \$75K.

Mr. Weingartner described how the Door plans to operate during the coming months. He also announced that the Door had hired an interim CFO and is about to hire an interim HR Director.

Ms. Silberman answered board members’ questions about what BSA is doing to show its appreciation to the staff.

At 7:26 p.m., the board then adjourned.