

Bronx Community Charter School Board Meeting Minutes 2022-23

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

9-30-22

9:30 am

Bronx Community Charter School

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Daniel Osorio, Zulema Guajardo, Beverly Falk, Sasha Wilson, Albania Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Kemi Williams
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting: June minutes were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each): No one from outside the board and school leadership was present. No members of the public were present
- III. Board Resolution: The Board passed the following resolution by a unanimous vote:
Resolved, that members of the Bronx Community Charter School Board of Trustees be permitted to attend meetings remotely, IF they provide notice that they - for reasons of health or distance or prior commitments - cannot meet in-person.
- IV. Leadership Updates (Alby, Kemi, Sasha): Alby shared middle school updates, including about the Opening Parade, football team, Middle School advisory, Curriculum Night, health classes, gender identity training for students and staff. Kemi shared slides about the All-School Neighborhood Study that is happening right now. The culminating museum celebration will be on October 28th right before the Board meeting.
- V. Assessment Report (Martha): Martha shared BxC's state test scores, and their comparison with New York City. We do not yet have district comparisons, which are very important for our charter goals. We will have a fuller look at assessment data, including state test scores, NWEA/MAP standardized testing, and individual Fountas and Pinnell assessments, at a future meeting.
- VI. Finance Report (Sasha): Sasha presented the budget picture, and gave an update on Summer Boost funding and how it was used.
- VII. Executive session- none held



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
10-28-22
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Zulema Guajardo, Beverly Falk, Sasha Wilson, Albania Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Yasmin Morales
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting: September minutes were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each): No one from outside the board and school leadership was present. No members of the public were present
- III. Leadership Updates (Alby, Martha): Alby shared middle school updates, including about Neighborhood Study work in the middle school and middle school students organizing National Coming Out Day activities and training in conflict resolution. Gil and Ariel shared their experiences of the Neighborhood Study Museum..
- IV. Assessment Report (Martha): Martha shared BxC's state test scores, and their comparison with District 10 and New York City.
- V. Finance Report (Sasha): Sasha presented the budget from July-September and the comparison with projections. Actual budget numbers for that first quarter were more positive than projections.
- VI. Executive session- none held

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
11-18-22
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

- a. Attendance: Yasmin Morales, Daniel Osorio, Zulema Guajardo, Denise Cancel, Beverly Falk, Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Alby Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Kemi Williams
- b. Vote on Minutes: Minutes from October meeting were approved.
- c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each): No members of the public were present.

III. Directors' Updates: School updates and Dashboard Discussion.

(Kemi/Martha/Alby): Alby and Martha talked about the coaching work that is launching in K-5. Carolyn Strom is supporting early childhood phonics and word work. Linda Paparella from Metamorphosis math is coaching elementary math. And we are working with Lavinia Group around close reading in upper elementary. Half of this work is funded through a grant from the Heckscher Foundation.

Kemi discussed National Coming Out Day and how we collaborate with families around this work.

IV. Finance Report: Finance committee will continue to discuss the lease arrangements and a vote will be held next month.

V. Executive Session (if necessary)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
12-23-22
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Alby Ruiz, Kemi Williams, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Ariel Behr, Gil Schmerler, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson, Denise Cancel
 - b. Vote on Minutes: November minutes were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each) : No public present
- III. Directors' Updates: School updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha): Discussion of attendance and RSV/COVID/Flu. Our attendance is in line with other schools around the city and we do not anticipate it would have an impact on our renewal or feedback from authorizers. New teacher established in 4th grade. Work celebrations have brought families into the building. 6th graders went to Frost Valley for an overnight trip. Discussion of possibilities for 8th grade overnight- we will be
- IV. Leasehold Condominium (Sasha and Finance Committee): This shift would mean the current \$60K we pay in property taxes would no longer apply. It would also mean extending the lease to a 30 year lease starting from now. The committee and the school's legal counsel doesn't see a down side. The board voted and passed a resolution to sign the new leasehold agreement.
- V. Finance Report (Sasha):
- VI. Literacy Discussion: We are working collaboratively with our early childhood teachers and literacy coach to figure out what kinds of tweaks we can make as a school to improve literacy while holding on to what we know and believe.
- VII. Executive Session (if necessary)

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
2-3-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

a. Attendance

Board members: Beverly Falk, Daniel Osorio, Gil Schmerler, Yasmin Morales, Zulema Guajardo

School leadership: Kemi Williams, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson

b. Vote on Minutes

The December minutes were approved unanimously.

c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each)

No public comments

III. Directors' Updates: School updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha/Kemi)

Kemi shared with the Board about the work of students and staff in the Black Lives Matter study, and previewed the culminating museum event.

Martha shared about the in-person Day of Action and Performing Arts Night.

Martha spoke about the current round of assessments, and said that the data would be available for discussion at the March meeting.

IV. Finance Report (Sasha)

Sasha shared BxC's finances through January. The school is in strong financial shape, with its current surplus ahead of expectations.

The financial picture for next year and beyond will depend upon two main factors:

- The new contract with the UFT, which will be negotiated this spring
- The per pupil funding for next year, which will be part of the budget package passed by April 1st

V. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session was held.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
2-17-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance Alby Ruiz, Yasmin Morales, Zulema Guajardo, Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Kemi Williams, Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk; Denise Cancel
 - b. Vote on Minutes - Minutes were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each) No public present
- III. Directors' Updates: School updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha)

Gil: So much to see at the museum! Learned about Black Benjie.

Michael: Hand molds in kindergarten were inspiring; 7th grade zines about social issues- food deserts, pollution, and gun violence

Yasmin: Theme is Black joy and there's so much joy- kids are engaged and social; 1st grade kids were very assertive; to think about how to engage kids and how to deepen engagement- all of the entry points and all of the ways kids can demonstrate learning

Beverly: The irreplaceable element of in-person presentations and projects...

So much opportunity for kids to interact with each other.

Yasmin: Student teacher Marissa reported, "This week, I felt like a teacher." Student teacher Ebonie said, "This is what I learned in your class, in action."

- IV. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session was held.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
3-31-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

- a. Attendance: Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Denise Cancel, Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Zulema Guajardo, Alby Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson
- b. Vote on Minutes

The February minutes were approved.

- c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each)

No members of the public were present

III. Directors' Updates: School Updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha)

The Co-Directors highlighted:

- Middle school acceptances
- BronxWrites Poetry Slam championship
- Family study in K
- Farm trip, future overnight trips
- Black Benjie tour
- Staffing update
- K-2 literacy update

IV. Assessment Update

F&P assessments in the fall showed stronger results in 3-5 than has typically been the case. Alongside that, we used other data points to create Venn diagrams to look at where kids' strengths and needs are, and how to form small groups to support them. This data is used to have students set goals and track them. Alby is leading the work on teachers giving more actionable feedback to revise their work.

V. Finance Update

Sasha reviewed the July-February Financial Statement with the Board and answered questions.

VI. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session was held.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
4-28-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

a. Attendance: Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Daniel Osorio, Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Yasmin Morales, Zulema Guajardo, Alby Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson

b. Vote on Minutes

The March minutes were approved.

c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each)

No members of the public were present

III. Directors' Updates: School Updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha)

The Co-Directors highlighted:

- STEAMfest
- Hiring for next year
- Upcoming overnight trips
- Close reading work
- Upcoming UFT negotiations

IV. Leadership Update

Beverly recommended two strong candidates for K-2 Assistant Director, and we're interviewing both of them.

We continue to interview candidates for the 6-8 Assistant Director position.

Martha shared her plans with the staff, response has been supportive.

V. Finance Update

Sasha reviewed the March Financial Statement with the Board and answered questions.

VI. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session was held.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
5-26-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Daniel Osorio, Alby Ruiz, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews
 - b. Vote on Minutes: The minutes from April were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each): No members of the public were present.
- III. Directors' Updates: School Updates and Dashboard Discussion. (Alby/Martha/Sasha) Alby updated the Board on the successful trips to Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, as well as other 8th grade end-of-year activities. Martha updated the Board on literacy and assessment work.
- IV. Leadership Update: There is a very strong candidate for the Assistant Director K-2 position, and we have offered her the job and are waiting for her response. We continue to consider candidates for the Assistant Director 6-8 position.
- V. Finance Update: Sasha presented the April financials and answered questions. The school continues to be in strong financial shape in the current year.
- VI. School Contribution to Jeannine's son Naima: Sasha explained the rationale behind the school making a contribution to BxC alum Naima, son of Jeannine King who taught and led at BxC for 13 years and died recently. The Board unanimously voted to donate \$10,000 to support Naima.
- VII. Executive Session (if necessary): None held

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
6-9-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

a. Attendance: Beverly Falk, Ariel Behr, Gil Schmerler, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Zulema Guajardo, Yasmin Morales

School leadership: Alby Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson, Kemi Williams

b. Vote on Minutes

The minutes from 5/26/23 were unanimously approved.

c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each)

No members of the public were present.

III. Directors' Updates: School Updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha)

Alby and Martha shared about year-end culminations and invited the Board to attend them.

IV. Leadership Update

Alby and Sasha shared that the school has hired Dr. Alycia Rhinehart to be the Assistant Director for K-2.

V. Budget Presentation

Sasha and members of the Finance Committee presented the end-of-year budget and narrative for FY23, and the proposed budget for FY24, with five-year projections. The Finance Committee already met and approved the budget, and they presented it to the full Board for consideration.

VI. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
6-23-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

a. Attendance: Beverly Falk, Ariel Behr, Gil Schmerler, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Denise Cancel, Yasmin Morales

School leadership: Alby Ruiz, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson

b. Vote on Minutes

The minutes from 6/9/23 were unanimously approved.

c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each)

No members of the public were present.

III. Directors' Updates: School Updates and Dashboard Discussion.
(Alby/Martha/Sasha)

Alby and Martha shared about year-end culminations.

IV. Leadership Update

The Board thanked Martha for her many years of service to BxC.

Alby and Sasha shared that the school has hired Shannon Ortiz-Wong as Assistant Director for 6-8.

V. Budget Approval

The Board voted unanimously to approve the budget for FY24.

VI. Calendar Approval

The Board unanimously approved the calendar proposed by school leadership and the UFT.

VII. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session.

Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
7-28-23
9:30 am
Bronx Community Charter School

I. Opening items:

a. Attendance: Beverly Falk, Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Denise Cancel, Ariel Behr, Zulema Guajardo

School leadership: Alby Ruiz, Sasha Wilson

b. Vote on Minutes

The minutes from 6/23/23 were unanimously approved.

c. Meeting called to order

II. Public comments (2 minutes each)

No members of the public were present.

III. Directors' Updates:

Alby and Sasha shared about the Summer Boost program, serving 174 BxC students.

Alby and Sasha updated the Board about contract negotiations with the UFT.

IV. Executive Session (if necessary)

No executive session.