

Board Meeting September 25, 2018

6:30 PM

Beverly Falk's House

In attendance: Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Daniel Osorio, Gil Schmerler, Melissa Serrano, Sasha Wilson and Martha Andrews

1. The Minutes from June were approved.
2. Discussion of NYC DoE Survey results
https://tools.nycenet.edu/guide/2018/#dbn=84X398&report_type=EMS
2. Exploration of NYS Test Scores from 2017-18
Focus on middle school math. We have made some structural changes that include departmentalizing math. 7th and 8th graders now have separate classes for science and math. We hired a veteran math teacher for 7th grade who has over 20 years of middle school math teaching experience. We agreed to discuss math more in depth at the November meeting with data from the EdVista to inform the discussion.
3. Finance Report and vote on investment plan, inventory policy, and temporary housing policy.
 - Discussion of Title funding overage from the state.
 - The Board discussed and approved the school's Inventory Asset Policy.
 - The Board discussed and approved the school's policy for enrolling students in temporary housing.
 - The Board discussed moving forward with a conservative investment plan. Daniel will work with Noah on establishing a process for selecting an investment advisor.
4. Role of the board in the renewal process that will take place next year
We discussed the role of the education and finance committees.
The Board will also play a role in this year's contract negotiations with the UFT.

Board Meeting October 23, 2018

9:00 AM

BxC

In attendance: Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Gil Schmerler, Melissa Serrano, Yasmin Morales, Michael Akavan, Noah Doyle, Sasha Wilson and Martha Andrews

1. September minutes were approved by an online vote earlier in the month.
2. Dashboard discussion:
 - a. We discussed process around suspensions and restorative practices for students, school adults, and family members.
 - b. We discussed the departure of the 6th grade math teacher. She left for personal reasons and was replaced by our math intervention teacher who is receiving substantial support in her transition, both from the MS Co-Director who has math teaching experience and additional hours of coaching with a consultant from Metamorphosis.
3. Math Action Plan Discussion:
 - a. Martha shared about the staff meeting at which we shared the state data, discussed our internal data, and presented urgency around prioritizing math across the school. Teachers were engaged in thinking both about their roles with students as well as how they might involve families more substantially.
 - b. We discussed the engagement of a leadership coach and the collaboration with a school in the South Bronx.
 - c. We shared shifts in classroom schedules.
 - d. We discussed the ways we are investing in teachers to grow as math teachers through training and professional development.
4. The Board reviewed the monthly finance report and no questions were raised.
5. Ariel shared that we have been paired with 2 graduate students from Columbia Business School who will be working with our operations team to create a comprehensive database that will allow us to easily pull data in multiple forms to share with the board, teachers, etc.

Bronx Community Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

November 26. 2018

BxC

9:00-11:00am

Minutes

In attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Martha Andrews, Daniel Osorio, Ariel Behr, Sasha Wilson, Melissa Serano; Michael Akavan

Guests: Richard Peng and Siwol Chang

Vote on October minutes- October minutes were approved.

Dashboard review/ discussion-

- Discussion around discipline and process for determining in school vs out of school suspension.
- Discussion around staffing in MS math. These people who want to have an impact on urban math learning... creating a “middle school math chair”—how can we creatively use our budget to generate a bigger pool of candidates...

Finance updates-

- Phil Perkins of the Perkins Malo Hunter Foundation visited recently and provided \$45K grant to support the ways we are increasing resources to address our instructional needs around math
- Noah introduced Daniel to a fund manager from Morgan Stanley- short term vehicles- one with Morgan Stanley (2% per annum); one with Lord Abbot (2.3% per annum)- very liquid; low risk. Both vehicles could be a first step into beginning an investment portfolio. In real numbers, this would be an increase from 3K to 23K per year. Sasha will check in with authorizers; Martha will reach out to other schools to hear about their investment plans; Daniel will find a few other candidates as well.

Introduction of Siwol and Richard, students from Columbia Business School who are going to be working on a project for the school this year. Initial idea: having a means to aggregate data in a way that is easy to access... we’ve revised that idea. They will provide an overview of how schools that recently went through the renewal process

Action plan updates (Martha and Sasha)

Assessment discussion: We examined and discussed the initial round of EdVista data. We are taking measures that we anticipate will result in improvements in the next round, which we will examine in February.

Bronx Community Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

December 11, 2018

BxC

9:00am

Minutes

In attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Martha Andrews, Ariel Behr, Sasha Wilson, Melissa Serano; Michael Akavan, Noah Doyle

Vote on November minutes- November minutes were approved.

Dashboard review/ discussion-

- Discussion of middle school behavior responses.

Staffing Update-

John and Antoinette, the middle school co-directors and Anjali, our consultant coach from Metamorphosis are teaching 7th and 8th grade math with Helen. Our search for the right candidate goes on.

Bronx Community Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

January 15, 2019

BxC

9:00am

Minutes

In attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Martha Andrews, Ariel Behr, Melissa Serano; Michael Akavan

- 1. Vote on December minutes-** December minutes were approved.
2. Dashboard review:
Discussion of upcoming MLK Jr. Day of Action
3. Math updates: Discussion of internal assessment protocols and action steps. We will have actual interim test data to look at next time we meet.
4. Board business: A call was put out to recruit one or two more members for our board. It would be great to have someone who brings both Bronx roots as well as some finance experience.
5. No other business was raised.

Bronx Community Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

February 12, 2019

BxC

9:00am

Minutes

In attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Martha Andrews, Daniel Ossorio, Melissa Serano; Michael Akavan

- 1. Vote on January minutes-** January minutes were approved.
2. Dashboard review
3. Math updates: The board reviewed the latest EdVista data. Plans for revising structure of math instruction were shared. We are also rethinking some structures in 5th grade so that kids are consistently working in smaller more structured groups.
4. Finance discussion
5. Other business: Gil provided an update on some interactions between the board, staff, and parents. Martha and Sasha updated the board on how teacher placement works and how we would communicate that with clarity to the staff for the coming year.

Board Meeting 3/22/19

BxC

9:00am

Minutes

Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Michael Akavan, Yasmin Morales, Sasha Wilson, and Martha Andrews

Agenda:

1. February minutes were reviewed and approved.
2. Dashboard discussion- discussion of applications for April 9 admissions lottery and enrollment stability; discussion of staff placement process; discussion of middle school social/discipline topics
3. Finance discussion and preview of upcoming UFT negotiations
4. Assessment:
 - a. Sample narrative report and checklist
 - b. Supporting our most struggling kids- digging into reading data/ implications for intervention work going forward
 - c. Whole school internal reading data
 - d. Whole school EdVista data
 - e. Math instruction discussion
5. Other board business: Discussion of upcoming DoE visit and the report from CBS students on renewals from other schools.

Board Meeting 4/16/19

BxC

9:00am

Minutes

Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Michael Akavan, Yasmin Morales, Sasha Wilson, and Martha Andrews

Agenda:

6. March minutes were reviewed and approved.
7. Summary of DoE Visit:
 - Classroom observations-
 - Active engagement of both teachers in every classroom
 - Thoughtfulness in “how we do school” that creates a supportive and productive culture
 - Evidence of student voice, choice and independence
 - Room to grow in depth of questioning and the underlying work of “how you know what you know” (Strong questioning and reasoning was seen in some classrooms, but not all.)
 - Moving forward, thinking about how we provide space for kids to engage in “productive struggle”
8. Next Steps for renewal:
 - The renewal process will be grounded in the accountability framework used by the DoE-
 - Is the school an academic success?
 - Is the school well run and operationally sound?
 - Is the school financially sound?
 - Our documents will be due on or around October 1.
 - The renewal visit will be a team of at least 3 people. They will spend 2 days at school, observing in classrooms, interviewing the board, and documenting our public hearing
9. One next step for our board: Summarize how the Board evaluates the work of the Co-Directors

Board of Trustees Minutes

May 14, 2019

BxC

9am

In attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Ariel Behr, Melissa Serano, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson

Guest: BxC parent

1. Vote on April minutes- approved.
2. Individual student matter: Martha and Sasha will follow up with the board.
3. Dashboard review- discussion of shifts in math instruction. We explored the difference between explicit instruction and direct instruction.
4. Sasha shared about Puerto Rico trip- it's a real culminating moment that holds so much of what our kids have built and developed here at BxC. Our kids get compliments from everyone- the tour guide comments on how authentically curious they are; the flight attendants comment on how they take care of the space around them; folks at the hotels comment on how kind they are to one another... they all returned glowing about their experiences.
5. Finance summary- A discussion of why the professional development line is higher than our estimate- we spent more on math professional development than planned in service of our kids' math performance.
6. Principal evaluation: Gil and Ariel will be a part of a committee who will extend and improve this and propose a plan.

Food for thought connected to this work:

Our current staff survey and connected evaluative summary has six main areas:

- Visibility and Involvement
- Communication and Interaction
- Instructional Support and Professional Development
- Meetings and Professional Development Facilitation
- Safe and Orderly Environment
- Balancing School's Beliefs with Operational Realities

Lots of boards use this tool:

Kim Marshall Principal Evaluation rubrics.

Some schools zero in on just a few of the rubrics (or all of them). Some schools use ratings, others develop a narrative based on the rubrics (and collected evidence).

<https://usny.nysed.gov/rttt/teachers-leaders/practicrubrics/Docs/MarshallPrincipalRubric.pdf>

Board Meeting 6/18/19

Minutes

BxC

6:00pm

In attendance: Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Gil Schmerler, Mike Akavan, Melissa Serrano, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews

Agenda

1. Student work expo!
 - a. Gil: Middle school humanities- notably rigorous writing with written feedback and rubric- 3 rubrics- one about content, one about editing, one about revision
 - b. Melissa: 3rd grade classroom- a math game they had played- you had to decide what was the rule to get that number- algebraic thinking.
 - c. Michael: Food justice- serving plants that they had grown; kindergarten focus on family
 - d. Sasha: in first grade- both classes went on trips to neighborhoods around the city, but each class had space to follow the interests of the kids
 - e. Martha: 4th grade- immigration study- evidence that kids
2. Vote on minutes from May
 - a. May minutes were approved.
3. Public agenda items
 - a. There are no members of the public present
4. Budget discussion and vote
 - a. The board would like to move our surplus into a higher yield saving account- Mike will do some research and make a recommendation- Sasha and Lesline will follow up with him.
 - b. Budget was voted on and approved.
5. Planning for 2019-20
 - a. New board members-Let's set a goal!
 - a. We will aim to recruit 2 more members
 - b. Some possible areas: fund raising; community connections
 - b. Renewal work preview
 - c. Other: updates on UFT negotiations