

Board of Trustees Meeting

September 16, 2019, 5:30-7:30

Location: Beverly Falk's House

4601 Henry Hudson Parkway apt 1A at 246th Street

In attendance: Melissa Serano, Beverly Falk, Gil Schmerler, Ariel Behr, Yasmin Morales, Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson

1. Renewal process and updates (Martha, Sasha and Gil)- 10 minutes

Representatives from the Charter School Office, Stephanie Mendez and Laurie Price, will visit BxC for 2 full school days- November 19 and 20. Their visit will include meeting with the Board and facilitating a public hearing on November 19.

2. Academic Performance, Charter Goals, and Action Plan review (Martha)- 20 minutes

We looked at overall data from the past 4 years of our charter term and dug specifically into the math data. We discussed the new math instructional framework which involves 90 minutes of math instruction in every class and new curriculum material. We also discussed the progress our Special Education and ENL students have made.

3. Co-Director Evaluation (Martha, Gil, and Ariel)- 30 minutes

We discussed the results of the annual evaluation of Martha and Sasha.

4. UFT Contract update and finance update (Sasha and Martha)- 10 minutes

UFT contract negotiations continue, but economics have been concluded.

5. Calendar for the year (Martha)- 10 minutes

Gil offered to host an off-site location to video conference into board meetings.

Board Meeting Minutes  
October 15, 2019

**In attendance:** Ariel, Michael, Melissa, Daniel, Gil, Sasha and Martha

1. Vote to approve of September minutes.
2. Review of renewal application
3. Discussion of action plan for enrolling more ENL students (Sasha)-
  - a. We have a ENL preference in our lottery for 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - b. We have substantial connections with the Spanish speaking communities
  - c. We will be making more targeted outreach to the Bangl
4. Adding two Special Education classes (Martha)
  - a. Discussion of logistics of our proposal to add 2 smaller SpEd classes
  - b. Impact on overall enrollment discussed
5. UFT update (Sasha)
  - a. Contract is 97% done. We are finalizing language.
  - b. It's a 4 year agreement
  - c. We anticipate that it will be officially ratified
6. Finance
  - a. Michael proposed moving our savings into a high yield account- Spring Bank- small community-based bank. The school could get a higher interest rate than we are getting right now.
  - b. Board agreed to this move.

Bronx Community Charter School

Board of Trustees Meeting

Present: Gil, Michael, Daniel, Ariel, Beverly, Melissa, Sasha, and Martha

October 28, 2019

Minutes:

- October 15 minutes were voted on and approved.

Dashboard Review-

- Review of calendar of meetings. Suspension data discussion along with related supports for students who exhibit behavioral concerns. M/S shared about us incident and related follow up. Discussion of how kids are supported socially/emotionally through both Responsive Classroom practices as well as restorative circles. Presentation about PEN conference attendance.

Finance Update-

- Ariel provided an update on call with auditors- we received a clean audit. Discussion of budget-salary figures; use of gym facilities at

DoE visit-

- November 19- Board will arrive at 3:30.
- Gil- Beverly- Melissa- Ariel- Daniel- Micheal-
- Public hearing: Gil will make opening remarks; Melissa will speak; Daniel will speak as well.
- Yasmin can't make it. Martha will check in with Stephanie if she wants to meet with Yasmin in the AM.

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees  
Bronx Community Charter School**

11/19/19

3:30

**In attendance:**

Gil Schmerler, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Melissa Serrano, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews, Beverly Falk

Guests: Laurie Hazely, Department of Education

All participants participated in person at Bronx Community Charter School.

**Minutes:**

Ms. Hazely met with the Board of Trustees to share her observations and findings from the day's visit.

The board asked questions of process and inquired into Ms. Hazely's recommendations for other schools to connect with as we continue to grow.

The board had the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives on the school.

The board and Ms. Hazely adjourned to attend the public hearing.

**Bronx Community Charter School**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**December 17, 2019**

**10:30am**

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

**Minutes:**

Vote on minutes from October (Gil)

- October 28 minutes were voted on and approved.

Dashboard review (Martha/Sasha)

- Discussion of suspensions
- Discussion of support for 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

UFT-BxC Contract (Sasha)

Post-DoE visit next steps (Martha)

- We haven't heard from Laurie, but expect the 3 year renewal to be sent on to the Board of Regents.
- Our work right now is to take stock and dig more deeply into our vision both in terms of academic improvement and our progressive practices and plot a course over the next three years to get there.

**Bronx Community Charter School**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**January 28, 2020**

**10:30am**

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

**Minutes:**

1. December minutes were voted on and approved.
2. Finance statement and update on expected funding increases from Albany.
  - a. Sasha explained salary line discrepancy around adjusting for individual's starting date.
  - b. 2021 Executive budget from Gov. Cuomo proposal would mean \$275K over our projected budget for next year. Even if it turns out lower, it seems that we're in good shape.
3. Update on renewal
  - a. Laurie Hazely will be here in person next week to meet with Gil, Martha, and Sasha to share the final recommendation
  - b. The addition of 2 smaller SpEd classes has been approved and will be included in our coming charter term
  - c. Our charter will be before the Board of Regents on February 10-11.
4. UFT Contract Approval- The board voted to approve the contract.

(The board had an executive session.)

5. Our next meeting- February 25.

**Bronx Community Charter School**

**Board of Trustees Meeting**

**February 25, 2020**

**10:30am**

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

**Minutes:**

January Minutes were voted on and approved.

Dashboard review

- Change of timing around reporting and conferences
- Suspension data review
- Restorative discipline/circle overview

Our coming charter term-

- Next steps in terms of leadership
- Budget and staffing priorities
- Testing and next steps

Timing of our March meeting

- Martha will send out a poll to determine the best time for folks

**March 31, 2020**

**Board of Trustees**

**Martha, Melissa, Mike, Yasmin, Gil, Daniel, Ariel, Sasha**

Agenda:

Discussion of timeline in establishing distance learning

As the Board, what's our responsibility? What are the "what ifs" we need to think about moving forward?

If schools are officially reopened and our staff doesn't want to return?

Would we consider having actual school over the summer?

Budgeting for the need for tech purchases in light of the possibility of needing to replace all of the tech we've distributed.

Finance: We anticipate budget being cut. Some savings from things like canceled overnight trips will provide a buffer.

Structures to support staff:

**April 7, 2020**

**Board of Trustees**

**Martha, Melissa, Yasmin, Gil, Daniel, Ariel, Sasha**

**Notes:**

- Spring break update: BxC will give teachers 4/9 and 10 as well as 4/16 and 17. Those days will still be school days for students with assignments and availability from leadership to address needs. Additionally, staff will have 3 Fridays off to make up for the 3 days we would have had. Those Fridays will be: 4/24, 5/1, and 5/8.
- Zoom update: BxC will continue to use Zoom with added security features in place for all meetings.
- Budget 2020: The school is facing a \$350,000 deficit based on the state budget. We will discuss later this month the ways we will address this deficit.
- Family support structures: The school phone rolls over directly to our Director of Student Support so everyone is able to get in contact with her when needed. Our Director of Operations continues to travel around to distribute technology to families who need it and our IT assistant is providing remote technical support for kids, families, and staff.
- Discussion of impact of COVID-19 on staff and families- We are tracking families who need additional support and providing that through Family Support Department as well as our counseling staff. We are spreading our staff widely to ensure that kids are still getting “school” even if a staff member is ill or dealing with the illness of a family member.

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Bronx Community Charter School**

5/26/20

10:30

**In attendance:**

Gil Schmerler, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Melissa Serrano, Yasmin Morales, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews, Beverly Falk

Guests: Beatriz Colonia, Jarrett Murphy, Erica Villaba, Dana Velez, Bonnie Massey, Yolanda Cando, Monique Dols

All participants participated by video link.

**Agenda items:**

Vote on minutes from April 2020: Minutes were approved.

Visitor agenda items: The desire to hear about budget and layoffs was expressed

Distance learning update- family survey results about distance learning were discussed.

Co-Director update on planning for the summer and beyond- updates from SED, NYCDOE, and our Leadership Committee

Technology update- discussion on moving to a 1:1 model for tech devices for kids for Sept.

Co-Director Budget update

PPP Resolution was passed in executive session

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Bronx Community Charter School**

6/9/20

10:30

**In attendance:**

Gil Schmerler, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Melissa Serrano, Yasmin Morales, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews, Beverly Falk

Guests: Beatriz Colonia, Bonnie Massey, Jessica Higgins, Nora White, Gabrielle Johnson, Lacrosha Berry

All participants participated by video link.

**Minutes:**

**Vote on minutes from May 2020:** Minutes were approved

**Distance learning update:** Martha and Sasha discussed the ways classes are winding down the year and the narrative reports families will receive. Martha and Sasha also discussed the ways the school is responding to and supporting kids as they process the Black Lives Matter protests and the violence against Black people that has taken place in the country both recently and historically. Additionally, the co-directors shared that families attended a meeting to share about the work of parenting and supporting kids right now. The school has also worked over the past weeks to support families who need assistance- delivery groceries and setting people up with long term support from Part of the Solution, a community food bank and advocacy organization.

**Updates on planning for the summer and beyond:** Martha and Sasha shared the ways the Leadership Committee is planning through three scenarios for reopening school: all remote, all in person, or a blend. Right now in the absence of guidance from NYS, we can look across the scenarios and start acting on the parts that are true for all of them (eg 1:1 technology for every child; individualized materials for every child, etc.) The school is putting together Virtual Summer Adventures programming to support kids' academic and social growth over the summer. This will be an optional free program for families.

**Budget update:** Sasha shared a draft of the budget for 2020-21. The finance committee arranged to meet before the June 18 meeting to look more closely at the budget detail.

---

Executive session

**Meeting of the Board of Trustees**

**Bronx Community Charter School**

6/18/20

11:00

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

**Agenda items:**

Minutes from June 9, 2020 were voted on and approved.

Visitor agenda items- none

Distance learning update- Martha and Sasha reported how teachers were wrapping up the year, invited the board to the virtual graduation and shared about how teachers were reporting progress to parents at the end of the school year.

Updates on planning for the summer and beyond- Martha shared: BxC will run a virtual summer adventures program that will provide students with a mix of academic and extracurricular activities. It will be free to students.

Budget update: The proposed 2020-21 Budget was voted on and passed.

---

Executive session