

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Bronx Community Charter School

7/27/20

1:00

In attendance:

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

Guests: none

All participants participated by video link.

Minutes:

Vote on minutes from June 2020: Minutes were approved

Distance learning update: Martha and Sasha shared what they have gathered about the SED and DOE regulations and plans. They shared the proposal for opening fully remotely and the phased re-opening from there. Primary considerations include: placement of school nurse; screening, tracking and tracing clarity from DOH; physical alterations needed in building (ie furniture, HVAC updates); procedures and protocols for disinfecting and sanitizing.

Family Involvement Update: The Co-Directors meet with families every two weeks to share updates. There have been between 85-140 families on each call.

Staff/UFT Update: The Co-Directors continue to meet with the school Leadership Committee to collaborate and generate buy-in for reopening plan.

Budget update: The board agreed that the next meeting would be a deep dive into the school's finances for the coming year.

Executive session: There was no executive session.



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Minutes

9-29-20

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance- Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Michael Akavan, Melissa Serrano, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting- Minutes from July were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Agenda additions from community members- there are no community members present
- III. Required Voting
 - a. Voting on Gil as chair- Gil Schmerler was officially voted as the chair of the board.
- IV. Directors' Updates and Dashboard Review
- V. Finance Updates
- VI. Committee Updates (confirming membership)
 - a. Executive Committee (Daniel, Michael, Gil, Ariel)
 - b. Education Committee (Beverly, Gil, Yasmin, Melissa)
 - c. Finance Committee (Daniel, Michael, Gil, Ariel)
 - d. Board Development Committee
 - i. Identifying members who want to serve on this committee
 - ii. For next meeting: goal for board development for 20-21
- VII. Executive session

Upcoming meetings:

Oct 27, 2020 09:15 AM

Nov 24, 2020 09:15 AM



Minutes from the Meeting of the Board of Trustees

10-27-20

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Melissa Serrano, Daniel Osorio, Michael Akavan, Antoinette Bradley, Jeannine King, Alby Ruiz, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting- September minutes were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Agenda additions from community members- none
- III. Required Voting- none
- IV. Directors' Updates: Moving towards hybrid learning- this phase 2 is really in service of setting up for phase 3 when more adults and students will be in the building.
- V. Finance Updates: The board looked at the YTD September FS
- VI. Committee Updates
 - a. Executive Committee
 - b. Education Committee (Beverly, Gil, Yasmin, Melissa): no updates
 - c. Finance Committee (Daniel, Michael, Gil, Ariel): Successful audit for the last fiscal year. Met with auditor and are working on the long term financial health of the school.
 - d. Board Development Committee: no updates
- VII. Executive session

Upcoming meetings:

11/24/20 at 9:15



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

11-24-20

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Albania Ruiz*, Antoinette Bradley*, Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Daniel Osorio, Gil Schmerler, Jeannine King*, Martha Andrews*, Melissa Serrano, Michael Akavan, Sasha Wilson*, Yasmin Morales
* = school leadership
 - b. Minutes from October meeting were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order by Gil Schmerler.
- II. Required Voting- none
- III. Directors' Updates: where things stand with remote/hybrid learning- School opened on November 16 for 2 pods in K and 1 pod per grade in all the others. Our UFT contract is aligned with the local infection rate which spiked above 3% by the afternoon of 11/16. We also discussed the potential learning loss from remote school and ways we might look towards framing that in terms of how school runs when we do get to go back to in person learning.
- IV. Spotlight: Presentation from Jeannine King, Director of Student Support re: The State of Special Education at BxC. [Presentation here](#).
- V. Public comment- no members of public were present.
- VI. Executive session

Upcoming meetings:

12/22/20 at 9:15



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

12-22-20

9:15am

Via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance:
 - i. Board Members: Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Gil Schmerler, Melissa Serrano, Michael Akavan, Yasmin Morales
 - ii. School Leadership: Martha Andrews, Antoinette Bradley, Alby Ruiz, Jeannine King, Sasha Wilson
 - iii. Members of the Public: Brigid Dunn, Bront'e Singleton, Bonnie Massey, Elizabeth LeBron, Gabrielle Johnson, Helen Kublis, Jessica Higgins, Jovi Ortega, Julissa Huayta, Katie Biscocho, Keith Andre, Kelly Mclane, Kim McLeveighn, Lady Hunter, Leila Taylor, Marie Elaina Zuccaro, Monique Dols, Nora White, Ryan Cherewich, Tynasha Pringle, Yolanda Cando
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting- November 2020 minutes were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order

II. Required Voting- none

III. Directors' Updates: where things stand with remote/hybrid learning (Sasha)

Family involvement:

We held family conferences earlier this month and had the highest attendance since our very early days. Teachers worked hard to prepare checklists and narratives describing how students are doing in remote school. Students presented first, teachers shared, and families had the opportunity to give feedback.

Family contact check-ins continue as we keep in touch with folks about their perspectives on how school is going and other family needs.

206 families (out of 361) have completed our survey about hybrid learning to date.

Slightly more than 50% want their kids to have an in-person option at school, representing about 120 students.

Remote School/ Hybrid Schooling:

Teachers worked last week to reflect on the successes and challenges of remote school at BxC. General successes to note include high and consistent attendance, engagement in small groups and breakout rooms, and completion of work that is done synchronously. Asynchronous time across the board was identified as more

challenging. Questions we're taking on right now: How do we hold students accountable for completing work during non-zoom time, how do we give actionable feedback, and how do we provide assignments that present authentic engagement? One important solution proposed across the school is to increase synchronous time for students who are doing remote learning.

We will be moving to offer hybrid instruction- 2 days in school; 3 days at home- for families who want that on January 19. We are working out the details of what this will look like in terms of who will be in-person- both kids and staff. Our goal is to offer live instruction for this time. (Several schools we know have students in person and they still log into zoom instruction.) This is more nuanced in middle school where teachers don't necessarily feel comfortable teaching all subjects. So, middle school students will have at least one subject live and my log into zoom for an hour during their time at school.

IV. Directors' Updates: onsite testing program (Martha)

We will be contracting with a lab called ATC to provide in-school testing twice a week (once for each cohort.) The goal is to test 25% of the in-person group each week so that over the course of 4 weeks, everyone will be tested. This is higher than the DOE goal of testing 20% each week and the NY State mandate, which only exists if you are in a color zone, of testing 20% over a month.

The test used will be a PCR test. The turn-around time at this moment is 18-48 hours. The financial structure is a little complicated, but essentially comes down to \$140/test, \$100 of which is covered either by the CARES act or by individual insurance, leaving the school with the bill of \$40 per test.

V. Directors' Updates: Literacy Assessment (Martha)

As discussed with the education accountability committee of the board, we assessed all readers in 1st-8th grade over the past month using either the Teachers College running record or the Fountas and Pinnel assessment. We have been holding meetings with grade teams to look at the bigger picture of kids' reading levels and consider how those inform our overall planning. For example, 5th grade is considering a whole class novel to read together rather than the read aloud we've used in person in the past as a way to support student engagement with reading and meet them closer to their level. We will prepare a data report to share with the educational accountability committee in the New Year.

VI. Public comments (2-3 minutes each)

11 BxC staff members addressed the Board during the public comment section. The board prepared written communication with the staff.

VII. Executive session

Upcoming meetings: 1/26/21 at 6:30pm



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

1-26-21

6:30 pm

Via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Members of the Trustees: Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Melissa Serrano, Gil Schmerler
Members of Leadership: Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson, Albania Ruiz
 - b. December minutes were approved.
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Required Voting- none
- III. Leadership Spotlight: Albania Ruiz, Middle School Co-Director- current work in MS: Priorities in MS include accountable talk and student engagement in the remote space. How do the practices we are reading about in Unlocking the Power of Classroom Talk apply to our classroom life.
- IV. Directors' Updates: where things stand with remote/hybrid learning (Martha/ Sasha) Martha and Sasha shared the data collection we are tracking about our regional school closures, infection rates, etc. We also discussed progress on vaccines.
- V. Education Committee/Directors' Updates: Literacy Assessment (Martha) Discussion of how teachers are using this data to revise their planning and structures in remote space.
- VI. Finance Committee/Directors' Updates (Sasha)
- VII. Public comments (2-3 minutes each)- none
- VIII. Executive session- none

Upcoming meetings:

2/23/21



Meeting of the Board of Trustees Minutes

2-23-21

6:30 pm

Via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Attendance: Members of the Trustees: Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Melissa Serrano, Gil Schmerler
Members of Leadership: Martha Andrews, Sasha Wilson
 - b. Minutes from January were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Required Voting- none
- III. Directors' Updates: where things stand with remote/hybrid learning (Martha/ Sasha)
Martha and Sasha shared about planning on moving towards reopening on April 12.
We also discussed the availability of vaccinations for staff members.
- IV. Education Committee/Directors' Updates: Upcoming reports/conferences (Martha)
Martha discussed the upcoming reports and conferences that will happen the week of March 22.
- V. Finance Committee/Directors' Updates (Sasha) Sasha discussed the most recent finance update.
- VI. Public comments (2-3 minutes each)- no visitors
- VII. Executive session- none was held



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

3-30-21

9:30 am

Via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Beverly Falk, Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews, Daniel Osorio, Melissa Serrano, Ariel Behr, Yasmin Morales
 - b. Minutes from February 2021 were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Required Voting- none
- III. Directors' Updates: where things stand with remote/hybrid learning (Martha/ Sasha) Martha described the contract and the model we will have for kids and adults coming back to the building on April 12. We shared about the upgrades we've made in the HVAC and other sanitizing routines.
- IV. Directors' Updates: Recruitment, lottery and admissions for 2021-22 (Martha/Sasha) We held several on-line open houses. Students have create testimonial videos that are posted on our website. Applications are being submitted on line. We have over 400 applications including 170 for kindergarten and 94 for 6th grade. Lottery will happen on April 8 on zoom again this year.
- V. Education Committee/Directors' Updates: Staffing (Martha) Martha talked about the process for hiring a new middle school co-director.
- VI. Finance Committee/Directors' Updates (Sasha) Sasha shared about the role that state and federal grants have played in balancing our financial picture moving into the coming school year. Board members encouraged M/S to create proposals for spending this money now. We discussed Linda Darling Hammond's recommendations around thinking beyond academic support for students re-entry.
- VII. Board recruitment: Goal: Moving from 7 members to 9. Ariel, Beverly and Gil volunteered to be on the subcommittee to focus on this goal. We will have an update at the next board meeting.
- VIII. Public comments (2-3 minutes each) No members of the public were present.
- IX. Executive session- none held

Upcoming meetings:

April 27 @9:15am



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

4-27-21

9:15 am

Via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Beverly Falk, Yasmin Morales, Melissa Serrano, Ariel Behr, Sasha Wilson, Martha Andrews, Alby Ruiz
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting: Minutes were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Required Voting- none
- III. Directors' Updates: The rollout of hybrid school. (Martha/ Sasha) About half the school is here in person, split into two cohorts- one on M/T and one on Th/F. Just about everyone who registered has come. Operationally, things are quite smooth- from arrival to COVID testing. Staff morale about being in person is high. Strong sense in middle school that kids and families are getting what they need. Kids have reported that they like being with their peers and grown ups. Kids are still getting the supports that they need. Moving towards feeling like people want to be here MORE.
- IV. Directors' Updates: Health and safety report (Martha/Sasha) We are testing 1/3 of the kids and staff every week. Kids are showing us things in person that we can't see in zoom.
- V. Education Committee/Directors' Updates: State testing (Martha) A few families opted in to the state tests. We are administering the NYSESLAT to all families next week.
- VI. Board Development Committee: Updates: Report for next meeting
- VII. Finance Committee/Directors' Updates (Sasha) Future board meeting agenda: what are we doing to support social/emotional needs for kids.
- VIII. Public comments (2-3 minutes each) None
- IX. Executive session- none

Upcoming meetings:

May 25 @9:15am



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

5-25-21

9:15 am

Via Zoom

Meeting Agenda

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance Gil Schmerler, Michael Akavan, Ariel Behr, Daniel Osorrio, Sasha Wilson, Albania Ruiz, Zulema Guajardo, Melissa Seranno, Yasmin Morales
 - b. Minutes from last month were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each)
- III. Introductions to Zulema
- IV. Directors' Updates: Updates on hybrid school. (Martha/ Sasha) Hybrid school continues to run successfully. Attendance is strong and kids are getting so much of what they need. The board received a formal letter from a group of staff members and are taking actions to address the senders and the concerns contained in the letter.
- V. Directors' Updates: Health and safety report (Martha/Sasha) We continue to test 1/3 of everyone in the building each week. All tests have come back negative so far. Our community rate is also quite low: 0.7
- VI. Education Committee/Directors' Updates: Planning for next year (Martha/Alby) Next year's plans include smaller class sizes, an additional counselor for next year. We are engaged in holistic reflection on kids' growth and areas of needs from this year in terms of how to shape plans for next year. We are specifically looking at subgroups including students with IEP and ENL students. Our discussion focused on acceleration vs. remediation and how we will engage with that model.
- VII. Board Development Committee: Introducing Zulema Guajardo.
- VIII. Finance Committee/Directors' Updates (Sasha)
- IX. Executive session

Upcoming meetings:

Tuesday June 15 @9:15am



Meeting of the Board of Trustees

6-15-21

9:15 am

Via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

- I. Opening items:
 - a. Attendance: Melissa Serrano, Gil Schmerler, Ariel Behr, Sasha Wilson, Daniel Osorio, Albania Ruiz, Beverly Falk, Michael Akavan
 - b. Approval of minutes from last meeting: May Minutes were approved
 - c. Meeting called to order
- II. Public comments (2 minutes each) No members of the public were present
- III. Directors' Updates: Updates on end of school. (Martha/ Sasha) Discussion of year end celebrations for 8th grade graduation and recognition of 5th grade moving on.
- IV. Directors' Updates: Looking towards 2021-22 (Martha/Sasha) We anticipate being fully in person in September and have previewed this for families. We also discussed the DoE plan and how it matches our announcement. We will, of course, be responsive to public health concerns. Additional funding will be used for tutoring programming, expanding the after school for K-5, and creating smaller classes for the coming year. The smaller classes will necessitate some internal renovations.
- V. Education Committee/Directors' Updates: Assessment planning updates (Martha) We piloted a new computer based assessment this June. We will administer the NWEA in the fall, winter and spring next year.
- VI. Board Development Committee: Family Rep update. We will have a new family representative at our July or August meeting.
- VII. Finance Committee/Directors' Updates (Sasha): Discussion of 2021-22 budget. Budget was voted on and approved.
- VIII. Executive session: No executive session was held.