

**Bronx Community Charter School  
Board Meeting  
Monday, November 7, 2011**

**Attended:** Martha Andrews, Ariel Behr, Angel Crespo, Beverly Falk, Robert Jain, Greg Lobo-Jost, Cynthia Rogers, Ed Valeriano, Sasha Wilson

**Minutes:** The minutes from the 10/3/11 meeting were approved.

**Updates:** See handout from 11/7/11.

- **Family Events:** Over 50 families attended the meeting about testing. Parents left with a better understanding of where students are and what is being done to prep them for this year's test. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders took a practice English and Math test. (This was the actual test from 2010.) These results will be shared with parents in the November parent/teacher conferences, and shared with the Board at the December meeting.
- **Staffing:** A question was raised by the Board regarding whether novice teachers at Bronx Community move on to head teaching positions. Some do, some might do another year of mentoring under a head teacher. Beverly mentioned a system that uses three levels of teachers – novice, lead, and master
- **Site Update:** Things are on schedule. Once the foundation and shoring up work is done, then the developer will begin building above ground. We are scheduling to have the Temporary Certificate of Occupancy (TCO) by June 1<sup>st</sup>, allowing three months of leeway before September 1<sup>st</sup> when we absolutely need to have it. Nothing has been signed with a general contractor for the build out at this point. The Facilities Committee will review proposals soon.
- **Finance Update:** See PDF of the Auditor's Report. BxC had a clean audit, with no significant findings. The Auditor pointed out the following: 1. There was improved documentation for credit card expenses, which had been a critique last year; 2. Escrow account had to increase; 3. General ledger maintenance should happen monthly; 4. Financial reporting to the Board should happen on a quarterly basis. Ed will work with Luis on a Board Report for the January meeting.
- **Questions:** 1. Could BxC hire a math intervention teacher? The Board is not sure we can dedicate the funds until we move to the new space and have a sense of our financial situation at that time. 2. When is the Charter renewal? This will happen next year; the annual visits help prep for this. Prep work will start in September 2012.

**Vision Discussion:** Beverly Falk gave a historic overview of public education, starting with early goals for literacy and pedagogy. She also spoke of the need to move from the "factory model" system to one that recognizes the cognitive and neuroscience of learning (which would include more activities and engagement in the classroom). The current testing system harks back to the old rote systems of learning. Now, NY State is moving towards a more performance based assessment.

**Mission Statement for Bronx Community Charter:** Sasha Wilson and Martha Andrews shared the school's mission statement and some examples of how the vision of the school lives now and how they imagine it when the school reaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade (see attachment).

Robert Jain discussed the need for Board members to have a quick way of describing the school (the Elevator Pitch). His wife, Carola Jain, works for Interbrand and may be able to help the Board think about these issues at an upcoming meeting.

Board homework: Look at some of the slogans for other charter schools. An example for our school might be: "Private school education in a public school setting"

Goals:

- a. Distill our mission statement into a one sentence statement
- b. Create longer pitches, thinking of the audience we are communicating with (potential Board members, families, donors, current students) in order to tailor the message

The next meeting will be Monday, December 5, 2011, at 5 pm at Credit Suisse.

*Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Rogers*