

**Bronx Community Charter School
Board Meeting**

August 15, 2011

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

Agenda: Recent ELA and Math Testing - 1. Scores 2. Assessment work prior to tests 3. Challenges and strategies for next year, and how does this impact the school's Charter renewal?

Scores: On the recent State tests 30% of students met proficiency standards on the ELA (English Language Arts exam). 35% of students met proficiency standards in Math. This year, students needed to answer 77% of questions correctly on the ELA to meet proficiency standards, a much higher level than in the past. 55% of BxC students scored at least 70%, but still did not meet proficiency standards. Eight students were one or two questions away from meeting proficiency standards. These results were lower than those of District 10 overall

Citywide, the majority of schools are in a similar position due to this year's new higher level for meeting proficiency standards. The state administered tests are about to change again in 2014. Board member Beverly Falk is involved in this work.

Martha and Sasha plan to talk with other leaders of charter schools to learn from their "best practices."

2. Assessment: The in-house assessments had predicted a better overall performance. However, the bar for passing was different (lower) than that of the actual test. Two factors heavily influenced this difference in performance: student stamina and inexperience with testing situations. BxC is incorporating more testing situations in the earlier grades to give students more practice without turning into a "test prep factory."

Board questions and comments:

Are these tests an evaluation of a child's intelligence?

These tests matter, particularly when comparing BxC with other District schools.

Exactly how is this test prep going to happen?

Part of how BxC is evaluated is by these test results; therefore it is important to improve the scores by next year's testing.

Is there a financial resource that the co-directors need to help with test improvement?

BxC students need to know that they have a vested interest in why they are taking the tests (presently they see it as an external prompt).

Is there an "action plan" for BxC parents?

How did other Charter Schools do on this test?

Are these test results being shared with our lenders?

Should the Board should show more involvement with the education at BxC as well as

the new building initiative?

The Board's role is to ensure that the co-directors have sufficient support to carry out plans for improvement.

3. Strategies: BxC is shifting the roles of the directors. Martha will focus on assessment, student growth, curriculum, and which students need extra academic support. An October meeting is planned to discuss the scores and follow-up plans with the parents. There is a targeted meeting with 3rd and 4th Grade families in the fall. New for next year is the addition of a reading teacher on staff. There will be further staff development, as well.

There should be a "progress report" at each Board meeting to address the testing issue. There was a request for a written action plan to be presented to the Board.

Beverly Falk volunteered to meet with the co-directors and faculty to discuss some of the possible strategies for improvement.

The next Board Meeting will be on October 3, 2011.

Respectfully submitted by Cynthia Rogers