

Bronx Community Charter School Updates 4/16/12

- 1) Attendance: Attendance for the month of March was 95%.
- 2) Enrollment: We had a kindergartner move, and we replaced her. We remain at an enrollment of 251.

The admissions lottery took place on April 5, 2012. There were applicants for 44 spots in kindergarten (six spots were held for kindergartners who will be repeating the year), applicants for 1st grade, applicants for 2nd grade, applicants for 3rd grade, applicants for 4th grade, and applicants for 5th grade. In a testament to the integrity of the process, Sasha's daughter was picked 149th in the kindergarten lottery.

- 3) Suspensions: There were two suspensions during March.
- 4) Assessment: 3rd and 4th graders attended school during the week of April 9th while younger students were on spring break, in order to prepare for the state exams. The ELA exam is April 17-19 and the math exam is April 25-27.
- 5) Staffing: We have hired Lesline Gardner to be our new director of finance. Lesline comes from the position of director of finance at Harlem RBI, a not-for-profit which is the parent organization of DREAM Charter School, and also worked in finance for KIPP NYC. After receiving over 100 resumes, interviewing eight candidates, and doing a second round with four, Lesline was the clear choice.

The personnel committee has interviewed 21 candidates and observed five demonstration lessons. The committee has hired two new teachers, and has four more teaching positions to fill.

- 6) Family events: 94% of families attended a family conference in March or early-April.

35 family members came to a meeting with Martha and Sasha to discuss BxC's facility situation for the fall.

- 7) Other: The Department of Education Office of Charter Schools' supervisory visit in March was a success. The reviewers noted many strengths in the instruction, operations, and leadership of BxC, including one reviewer saying, "If I were still teaching, I would want to work here." They agreed that the greatest area for improvement is producing test scores that reflect the strong work that happens at BxC. They will be producing an annual site visit report in the coming months.

Facilities Update

We signed a lease amendment with the developers which makes them liable for an additional \$250,000 due to their failure to deliver the building this summer. The total contractual cost for our build-out is \$2,650,000, of which the developer is now responsible for \$2,050,000, leaving us liable for \$600,000.

The developers are currently pouring the ground floor of the building, and Chris McAninch estimates that they will reach the top of the shell by the end of May.