

## Bronx Community Charter School Updates      3/5/12

- 1) Attendance: Attendance for the month of February was 96%.
- 2) Enrollment: We had siblings in 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade transfer to a new school because they moved out of the area. We replaced them immediately and continue at an enrollment of 251.
- 3) Suspensions: A 2<sup>nd</sup> grader was suspended for two days for kicking a classmate.
- 4) Assessment: The practice tests (which were taken from past year's tests and reformatted to match this year's structure) show growth from November to January for the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade multiple choice math, 50% of students scored a 3 or 4 in January, compared to 16% in November. On the ELA for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, 40% of students scored a 3 or 4, compared to 34% in November. While the statistics for 4<sup>th</sup> grade are not as strong as the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, they show some growth from the state exams in the spring and they highlight a cohort of children in the approaching category. These children have been receiving intensive instruction during the test preparation work as well as additional targeted academic support. The January 4<sup>th</sup> grade practice test shows that 44% scored a 3 or 4 on the ELA (compared to 30% in the spring.) The 4<sup>th</sup> grade practice math test shows 28% receiving a 3 or 4, which is lower than the last year's actual exam results for this cohort, but is based on a May test given in January and some of the content had not yet been taught. Both the 4<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math practice tests show close to 20% of students receiving a high two, within a few questions of receiving a 3. We will continue to work hard to ensure that this year's results on the state tests will show growth from our first testing year.
- 5) Staffing: Luis, our Director of Finance, had his last day on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. We posted the position on Craig's List, Idealist, and the New York Times, as well as the job sites of various business schools, Teach for America alumni, and returned Peace Corps volunteers. We received about 100 responses, screened about 25 on the phone, and have arranged interviews with five. We will then have a second round and involve the Board Treasurer.

One of our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers resigned unexpectedly this past week, citing health reasons. We are very fortunate that we had a wonderful student teacher in the fall whom we were hoping to hire for the coming year, and she accepted the position and was able to start right away.

Our personnel committee, made up of co-directors, teachers, and parents, has begun interviewing candidates to fill positions for next year. We anticipate having six teaching positions to fill, four because we're adding a new grade and two because of teachers who will be remaining with us but growing into new positions.

The levels of the hiring process for teachers are as follows:

- a) Candidates send resumes, meet us at job fairs, or are referred by people in our networks.
  - b) We invite promising-looking candidates to come visit for a morning to get to know the school and to be screened by us.
  - c) We schedule those we're most impressed by for interviews with the personnel committee.
  - d) After interviewing candidates, the committee invites a select few to return to teach a demonstration lesson.
  - e) The committee makes decisions and makes job offers. (The committee is technically advisory and Martha and Sasha have the power to make all final decisions, but have always agreed with the decisions of the committee.)
- 6) Family events: The Performance Arts Night, already reported on in the last updates, was February's family event.
- The family-initiated chocolate sale has been going strong, and the school will raise approximately \$10,000 this year through the sale.
- 7) Other: The Department of Education Office of Charter Schools will come to BxC for its annual site visit on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.