

Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Diana Lee
Feona Huezo
Mark David
Joanne Hunt (ex-officio non-voting)

Others Present

Pam Sanders
Ariel Arnold
Robert Morales
Ruby Doswell

The meeting was held at the Brooklyn Charter School on September 17th, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 6pm. The minutes for the meeting held on August 28th, 2019 were approved.

Feona Huezo was welcomed to the Board.

Enrollment

There are currently 220 students enrolled, including 63 new students. There was 94% student retention, with 11 students leaving the school. This is the best retention rate we have recorded since 2015.

As there are currently 29 students enrolled in kindergarten we are going to split the class. One of these classes will be full and the other class will still be open to recruiting new students. The 2nd, smaller class will require one teacher.

Mr. Angel will have a new student report prepared, which will be presented at the October Board Meeting.

Staffing Update

Teacher retention was 80%, of 21 teachers last year, 4 did not return. Mary Kate left the school to move upstate as an Assistant Principal. Two teachers went to DOE schools. One teacher went back to the Charter School they came from. One teacher moved to Florida.

BCS pay is comparable to New York DOE schools.

Academic Report

There has been a regression in ELA scores in 5th Grade for the second year in a row.

The faculty has received a portion of the students' writing on the tests with explanations of the grading. It is apparent from studying this that students were tired by the end of the test,

especially as this is where the long essay question is. The administration is examining how to build stamina for future tests.

One approach is to start working on essays before January. Students were writing a lot in class but without purpose. There is now a focus on the students learning how to specifically address the question. It helps that the teachers are now aware of where the students are tripping up. Feona suggested that the students should provide oral responses to essay questions to see how the students' minds are working. Another approach to be examined is whether students should start with the final essay question and work backwards, if this is acceptable.

BCS has implemented a new data tracking system.

The enrollment in the Summit After School Program is 40 students, which is up from last year. The Tutoring After-school Program (TAP) will start in late November/early December. This program costs the school about \$30,000 per year but is free of charge to families.

This year BCS is also adding a Gamers & Coding class after school. There are currently 2 periods a week of technology starting in kindergarten.

BCS is looking into a platform for an extended learning program at home.

Financial Report

Enrollment of 220 students is helping the budget compared to last year's enrollment.

The auditors will add a footnote of the funds in the school's investment account so that it will be clear what funds are accessible for the school.

Board Items

The Wedding Garden is closed. An assessment has been conducted by counsel and has confirmed that there are no claims against the school. Specifically the landlord has no claim against the Wedding Garden.

The next Board Meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Charter School at 6pm on October 29th, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.