

Members Present

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

Others Present

Pam Sanders
Ariel Arnold
Robert Morales

The meeting was held via a ZOOM conference call on April 27th, 2020.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86160846533?pwd=bXF2Wm56Y3ZxeUxZCU5wQk9xRENOQT09>

Meeting ID: 861 6084 6533

Password: 5FpWza

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm. The minutes for the meeting held on 23rd, 2020 were approved with a motion from Mark, seconded by Diana.

COVID-19 Update

Governor Cuomo extended the 180 day school day exemption through May 15th. This means that New York State public schools will remain closed until May 15th.

Distance/Remote Learning Plan Updates

Special Education Services- Students who receive related services continue to receive these services through live Google Meet sessions based on IEP mandates. Licensed Sped classroom teachers are now also providing SETSS for students who require these services.

Kodable will now be offered on Friday's for our students as a special class along with Music, Dance and Virtual Field Trips.

The question of the need for academic intervention services in the 2020-21 came up. BCS is aware that we will need to shift our instructional practice in 2020-21 in order to fill in the gaps for instructional loss which occurred in the latter part of the school year in 2019-20.

The question also came up regarding attendance and student participation. BCS will have a concrete percentage of attendance and participation at the May 2020 board meeting.

Student schedules: Instructional videos in Core Subjects are available for students as early as 8:30 a.m. each morning and teachers are available for students during the hours of 9 a.m.-4 p.m. We discussed sending a sample schedule for each grade so that families have an example of how each student can approach each day in order to get all of their classwork completed for the day.

BCS has several parents that are essential workers. One specific parent expressed frustration about being able to support their child in completing their work in a timely fashion in a parent survey. BCS has offered all of our family's flexibility in turning in assignments to minimize any frustration or unnecessary stress during these difficult times.

Currently BCS has given out a total of 75 iPads and/or Chromebooks and is scheduled to give out a total of 5 more in the next week.

Staffing Updates

Payment to faculty who are not salaried employees during the COVID-19 pandemic:
It was determined that it would be fair to pay the BCS bus matrons 100% of their current pay bi-weekly salary as long as BCS continues to receive its expected per-pupil funding through payroll date June 26, 2020. It was determined that it would be fair to pay the BCS Afterschool faculty an average of their hours bi-weekly as long as BCS continues to receive its expected per-pupil funding through payroll ending June 12, 2020.

Teacher Appreciation week begins May 4th. Board members agreed that a \$100 gift card would be appropriate for the 26 instructional faculty employed at BCS totaling \$2600.00

Financial Report

Budget vs. actuals ending period 3/31/20

There is currently a \$500,000 surplus. Ariel is projecting a surplus in June of \$100,000. School spending is down due to the conservative nature in which the school makes purchases. More specifically the school has saved approximately \$11,000 from the afterschool program line, \$6,000 from the field trip line and \$7,000 from the office supply line to name a few. The school's budget was for 215 students and currently the school has 219 students on register attending the school.

There has been no clear information from NY State or the NYCDOE as to how the reconciliation will be conducted in July 2020 and how that will affect the budget. Once information becomes available, the school will inform the board immediately to determine how BCS will proceed with the 2020-21 school budget.

Joanne and Ariel spoke with Jason Kass at Chase Bank on April 14th regarding the \$75,000 escrow account that must be maintained in the event of dissolution. Mr. Kass expressed that the \$75,000 is currently in an interest-bearing savings account and that it can be made a

restricted account in which only board members will be able to access, more specifically the two current signers would be the only eligible BCS members that could move these funds for the purposes of dissolution only. BCS was able to get clarity from the NYC DOE regarding the specific requirements necessary for a dissolution account. The response from the NYC DOE was “While we do prefer an actual escrow account, as long as the dissolution funds are in a separate, dedicated account (so not lumped up with any funds reserved for other purposes) and as long as there is a valid reason to have the funds in another type of account, which should suffice. A reserved, interest-bearing savings account that only contains the funds set aside for dissolution sounds like it fits within the parameters of what we would find acceptable.”

The 990's were approved and Joanne was given permission to sign the document in order to get it back to the audit firm in order to file on time.

Charter School Grant for technology Update

BCS received the grant from the NYC Charter Center for \$20000 to purchase an additional 100 Chromebook and licenses for our families in need. The school placed an initial order with Amazon for 20 Chromebooks (\$3487.79) which was needed for families in need and then placed a second order with CDW-G for an additional 85 Chromebooks (\$15980) and licenses (\$2125). The school is waiting for the shipment to come in.

Enrollment

Enrollment remains at 219 enrolled students

Lottery Update: As of April 1st, we had a total of 65 kindergarten applications in which we accepted all students. Of the 65 applications, we have 26 confirmed kindergarten students of which 10 are siblings attending in the fall 2020. In 2018-19, the school had 80 kindergarten applications of which we had 25 confirmed kindergarten students in which 24 students actually attended in the fall of 2019.

The board discussed that having a total of 36 kindergarteners for the 2020-21 would be optimal.

A discussion with Matt Vaughn (our website consultant) regarding the need to increase our google ads at this time occurred and Matt stated that while traffic is up on the website, it is not translating to student applications. It was requested by the board that a copy of the monthly website traffic report be provided for the next board meeting.

It was also discussed that maybe we can add some items to the website to increase parent interest (i.e. a virtual tour of the school, teacher instructional videos, etc.)XX

Diana also brought up the possible use of local neighborhood internet sites for advertisement. She mentioned seeing some charter school ads on local neighborhood websites and will provide Joanne some examples of these sites for her reference.

Student Retention

An email survey went out to verify how many of our students were planning to return for the 2020-21 school year. For those families that did not respond, a personal phone call was made by our support faculty in order to get an answer. Of the current 173 students in grades K-4, 164 confirmed that they will be returning to BCS in the fall, 2 students will not be returning (both siblings are graduating) and 6 students are unsure (some are moving, the distance from home to school is a concern, etc.). 1 family did not respond.

The next BCS Board meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.