

A Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Mark David
Diana Lee
Feona Huezo
Tony Betaudier

Others Present

Robert Morales
Joanne Hunt
Ariel Arnold

The meeting was held via a ZOOM conference call on June 22, 2021.

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting

Time: June 22, 2021 5:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82291448351?pwd=dnQ0aXVJRTdpWGFhMk0raEFGbGFGQT09>

Meeting ID: 822 9144 8351

Password: bcs

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,82291448351#,,,,0#,,593914# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 822 9144 8351

Password: 593914

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82291448351?pwd=dnQ0aXVJRTdpWGFhMk0raEFGbGFGQT09>

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 pm. The minutes for the meeting held on May 25, 2021 were approved with a motion from Diana, seconded by Mark. All voting members (5) were in favor.

COVID Updates:

There have been no new reported COVID cases in the building since 3/2/21.

School Hybrid/Remote Updates:

- The question was asked by Diana as to what our fall plans are for reopening. BCS is slated to open 100% fully in-person on September 13, 2021.
- Current students opting for Full Remote Learning: 112 (116)
- Students Opting for In-Person: 95 (91)
- Total Devices loaned to date: 182 (180)
- May 2021 attendance was 91

Education Updates

- NYS Testing Updates
 - NYS Written Science Test (Grade 4) was administered on June 9, 2021. 10 out of 40 4th graders elected to take the test.
 - Diana asked when the results of the NYS ELA and Math tests become available. In a normal school year, scores are normally released in late August/early September. At this time we have not received any information as to when this data will be released.
- BCS Virtual Summer Enrichment Program
 - Offered to all grades, K-5
 - Will begin Monday, July 13th and will end Friday, August 13th
 - Hours: 9:00 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.
 - The program will address reading, math, phonics, Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) and specials (physical education, dance, technology, etc.)
 - The idea is to implement a robust virtual program that mimics the NYCDOE Summer Rising program.
 - Currently 50 students have signed up for the program.
- BCS Strategic Plan to Address Learning Loss in the 2021-22 School Year
 - ESSRR & APR funding was discussed to support the following items based on surveys received back from families and teachers. Members of the board provided input on the following ideas to address learning loss from the pandemic:
 - Virtual Summer Enrichment Program
 - Board members would prefer an in-person summer program. It was explained that our actual building would be closed to students due to a boiler conversion project and the intent would be to host an in-person summer program in the summer of 2022.
 - Continuing the Tutoring Assistance Program (In-person and Virtual)
 - After School Remediation Program (if the building is open after-hours)
 - Response to Intervention (RTI) small groups during the school day to address specific areas of remediation in reading and math
 - Hiring more faculty to address learning loss within the classroom (Academic Intervention Specialist, Special Education Teachers, Assistant teachers).
 - Board members are very supportive about hiring faculty to aid in remediation in order to expedite the school's efforts to bridge the instructional gap in each grade.
 - A question that was raised was will BCS be able to hire good teachers at competitive salaries at this time. BCS administration has placed ads at the NYC Charter Center and believe that the school will be able to fill necessary positions with qualified candidates.
 - The ARP spending plan was discussed and approved.

- Parent Workshop Updates:
 - Grade 4: 5/26/21: 6 parents attended (7 parents attended the last workshop)
 - Grade 1: 6/1/21: 5 parents attended (4 parents attended the last workshop)
 - BCS Board Members had questions and concerns regarding the most recent parent workshops:
 - Diana felt that the parent participation was dismal for these workshops. She revisited the conversation from the last board meeting about offering monetary/gift card incentives for ALL parents who participate versus a raffle. Diana believes that our families would appreciate this added incentive. Henry and Mark disagreed and felt that an incentive of this magnitude would not be sustainable and that conversations with families with school personnel explaining the importance and value of these workshops would be more effective in order to get them to participate versus a monetary/gift card incentive. Feona felt that the incentive may work in order to get more families to participate in the workshops.
 - A motion was made to provide monetary gift cards to all families who participate in our first parent workshop in the fall of 2021 to see if we get more families to participate. 3 members voted “yes” (Diana, Feona and Tony) and 2 members voted “no” (Henry and Mark). The motion to provide the gift cards was carried. The discussion continued and the three members who voted “yes” felt we should try this once and see what the outcome is.

Senior Updates

- The 5th grade banquet was held on 6/10/21 at Glen Terrace Catering Hall, Brooklyn, New York. There were a total of 140 attendees including 26 staff members. 43 out of 47 5th graders attended and 71 family members participated. All COVID safety mandates were followed.
- Middle School Acceptances update:
 - Charter Schools: 30 students (64%)
 - I.S. 318: 3 students/Other DOE Middle Schools: 5 (17%)
 - Gifted & Talented: 1 student (Mark Twain) 2%
 - Medgar Evers College Prep: 1 student, 2%
 - Undecided: 6 students (13%)
 - Moved to NJ: 1 student (2%)
 - A breakdown with specific schools and students was presented in a separate document.

Staffing Updates

- 2020-21 staffing updates: None
- 2021-21 staffing updates: Currently ALL faculty will be returning for the 2021-22 school year.
 - BCS will be looking to fill the following positions for the 2021-22 school year to

aid with the mitigation of learning loss:

- 1st grade Special Education Teacher
- 1st grade Assistant Teacher
- 2nd grade General Education Teacher
- 3rd grade Assistant Teacher
- 4th grade Special Education Teacher
- 5th Grade Assistant Teacher

Financial Report: Ms. Ariel

- Budget vs. actuals ending period 5/31/21
 - There is an \$814K cash surplus through May 2021. There is currently 2.5 million in the BCS investment accounts. The school has 703K cash in the bank. Ariel is projecting a surplus of approximately \$440K in June 2021 based on accruals for payroll, taxes and monthly spending. Specific contributors to the surplus is the increase in SPED students in the >60 category and federal grant funds.
 - Mark asked if the surplus includes summer teacher accruals and insurances. Ariel assured Mark that the surplus included those items as well as PTO payouts and all big ticket items.
 - BCS board members will participate in Financial Literacy Webinars/Workshops as required by our Authorizer based on the fiscal concerns from our last renewal. Chase has provided services to the board to aid with financial literacy.
 - Henry informed the board of our new contact at Chase (Milo) who will review the investment strategies with the finance committee to ensure that we are minimalizing risk while maximizing our investments.
 - ESSER and APR funding: 285026K and 640,127K for a total of \$925,153 to be spent through 2023.
 - The Board requested a strategic plan to address learning loss for the next board meeting in July 2021 which will incorporate the items discussed from today's board meeting.
 - Tony asked if this was Title money and if there were any restrictions with these funds. ESSER and APR funding is similar to Title money and the grant process is similar. The APR funding grant requires more extensive details and planning which the school is currently working on. As per federal guidelines, the majority of the funds are to be used for mitigating learning loss and PPE supplies and resources (COVID safety within the school). A more detailed list of appropriate items will be sent to the board for further review.
 - Ariel reviewed the process on how to recoup the monies since it follows the same process as the Consolidated Application (Title money).

Enrollment Update

- a. Target for 2020-21: 204 enrolled students
- b. Actual ATS
 - i. Grade K: **27**

- ii. Grade 1: **33**
- iii. Grade 2: **25**
- iv. Grade 3: **35**
- v. Grade 4: **40**
- vi. Grade 5: **47**
- vii. Current Actual ATS enrollment/Budget: **207**

Enrollment

- 22 kindergarten families are confirmed to attend BCS in the 2021-22 (We had 16 kindergarten students at the last board meeting).

Additional Board items

- Mr. Morales reported that he has been in contact with Tina Payne regarding our insurances to review current policies. Morales will coordinate a date that Henry and Joanne will be able to meet with her regarding these matters.

The next BCS Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:46 pm. With a motion from Tony, seconded by Mark. All voting members (5) were in favor.