

Board Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Mark David
Feona Huevo
Diana Lee

Others Present

Robert Morales
Ariel Arnold
Joanne Hunt
Nora Balla
Pamptata Sanders
Anna Toma

The meeting was held in a public space at the school (Room 324) as well as via a ZOOM conference call on **February 28, 2023**.

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting

Time: February 28, 2023 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Place: ZOOM and 545 Willoughby Avenue, Room 322

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82291448351?pwd=dnQ0aXVJRTdpWGZhMk0raEFGbGFGQT09>

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm. The minutes for the meeting held on January 24, 2022 were approved with a motion from Feona, seconded by Mark. All voting members (4) were in favor.

1. Enrollment Updates:

Current student enrollment: 165

a. Enrollment season (February 2023 updates)

- i. Vaccine mandate was lifted on 2/10/23 (This will assist with increasing our presence in the community and our enrollment efforts.

1. Welcome Back Parent Event: March 8, 2023

- ii. Upcoming/Past BCS Events for Potential New Families: Below are the events that we have scheduled for our new potential families.

a. Art Meets STEAM (3/15/23)

b. House Warming Party for new families (4/19/23)

iii. BCS 2023 Marketing Campaign

1. Daily News advertising: BCS was featured in the Daily News Charter School Circular which ran on 2/24/23.

2. We are in the process of creating a BCS Informational Pamphlet

a. Henry wants to ensure that we include the ELA curriculum in the pamphlet since it truly offers a balanced literacy

approach to reading (A deliberate and prescribed phonics component and a component to address all of the other facets of reading and reading comprehension).

2. School Programming

a. Lavinia Group Updates

i. Summer Boost 2022 Final Data Report

1. Mrs. Sanders shared the growth report from Lavinia Group from the 2022 5-week Summer Boost program. Overall, students (a total of 62 who tested) grew 24 percentage points in ELA and 15 percentage points in math as measured by a pre-test and post-test. Additionally, the percent of students scoring Proficient increased by 19 percentage points in ELA and 21 percentage points in Math by the end of the program.
2. Henry asked a few questions: what do we do regarding students who are not proficient? Do we retain them? If you are a parent and your child is not proficient, what happens? How do these students get into middle school? For students who are not proficient in reading, we offer daily small group remediation, small guided reading groups and daily i-Ready practice in reading for at least thirty minutes. Post pandemic, BCS has not retained students due the number of students who have fallen behind in reading. BCS is meeting students where they are and closing the gap through the small reading/remediation groups that we currently have in place. BCS communicates with parents regularly to inform them of their child's progress and how they are progressing/regressing during the course of the school year. BCS also offers resources to families as to how they can support their children at home to assist them with making growth with their reading. BCS students continue to be accepted into competitive middle schools. The majority of our students get accepted and attend either Launch Charter School or Unity Prep Charter School in Brooklyn. Since we have a relationship with both of these schools, we are able to communicate with them regarding incoming individual student needs to ensure that they continue to receive support in middle school if there continues to be deficiencies.
3. Diana asked what the difference is between Basic Proficiency and Proficiency. Basic proficiency is a student who can read at the basic level of their current grade which includes age-appropriate text, understands the words, can answer simple questions about the information presented in the written text and can read with enough fluency to get through the material and answer the questions. Students who are proficient can do all of the above as well as make reasonable inferences and make text connections

from the material that they read. They are able to comprehend a deeper sense of written material.

4. Feona raised a point and wanted to ensure that now we are in the regular school year, that all students have the opportunity to receive the Lavinia Curriculum. At this time grades 3-5 participate in close reading/test prep and grades K-5 participate in the math story problems component of the Lavinia Group curriculum.

ii. Summer Boost 2023

1. BCS was encouraged to apply for the Bloomberg Philanthropies Summer Boost 2023 grant based on our 2022 Summer Boost growth/results. It requires no more than 20 students in a class and 80% daily attendance of total summer enrollment.

iii. Close Reading/Test Preparation Updates

1. Ms. Toma shared the process of close reading/test prep groups in order to inform the board of how the program operates. Ms. Toma reported that we are seven weeks into the close reading program. Students are being taught a strategic plan to attack multiple choice and short written responses by identifying the genre, finding the main idea, recording that information to better understand the text and ending with a transferable takeaway. Students then work through model questions with the teacher and then practice the strategies independently while the teacher observes each student work through the process. During the process, teachers meet with students to assist them with areas of struggle or congratulate them on their work. Students then work independently in order for teachers to assess whether students have successfully mastered the transferable takeaway for the day.
2. Ms. Toma shared data from each class in grades 3-5 in order for the school board to get an understanding of the different data points that BCS uses for reading in order to create the reading groups for instruction during close reading. Feona made a suggestion to remove student names in the future from this type of shared data.
3. Henry asked what other schools utilize the Lavinia Curriculum? Did we choose this curriculum over any others? While we do not know which specific schools utilize the curriculum, we do know that the training that we received was among a plethora of other schools in NYC and around the country. The Lavinia Curriculum was developed by a group of former Success Academy administrators and teachers. BCS chose to use this curriculum based on our Summer Boost 2022 gains in ELA and Math.

3. Financial Report

- a. Through January 2023, the school has recognized \$2,002,440 in per pupil revenues. We are projecting to recognize \$3,304,105 in per pupil revenue by year end. This projection is based on an enrollment of 165 GENED students and 19 SPED students. We received our final Title allocations and they align with our budgeted amounts. We have forecasted to receive \$4,459,000 in federal funding. In addition, we have requested the reimbursement of \$67,381 from expenses we coded under the ARP funds. This leaves us with \$137,618 in ARP funds to expense and reimburse through the end of the school year. We have incurred \$2,213,709 in expenses through January 31st. The forecasted end of year deficit is approximately \$48,000. Contributing to this is the deficit is the purchase of the Lavinia curriculum that wasn't initially included in the budget but approved by the board in October 2022. As of, February 28th we have \$1,095,999.86 in investment accounts, \$722,767 in cash accounts, and \$75,274 in the escrow account.

1. **Staffing Considerations for 2022-23:**

- a. Staffing Needs:
 - i. None at this time

2. **Additional Board Items/Questions:**

- a. None

3. **Public Comment: None**

4. **Date & Location of next meeting:** 545 Willoughby Avenue, Room: 304 and Zoom.

- a. Upcoming Board Meeting Date(s): March 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

5. **Adjournment:** A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Mark and seconded by Feona. All voting members (4) were in favor. The meeting was officially adjourned at 6:42 p.m.