

Board Members Present

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

Others Present

Robert Morales
Ariel Arnold
Joanne Hunt
Nora Balla
Anna Toma

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting

Time: May 23, 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 April 27, 2023 were approved with a motion from Mark, seconded by Henry. All voting members (3) were in favor.

Enrollment season: (May 2023 updates)

- a. 2023-24 Enrollment Update
 - i. Current student retention: 75 returning/3 not-returning (All are moving to another state) and 2 undecided (They are contemplating moving to another state). Families have until May 31st to complete the email survey. We will also reach out to families that have not responded to ensure that we have the most accurate count of students coming back in the fall of 2023.
 - ii. Kindergarten students acceptances via the partnership program
 - 1. We have 1 student attending from each of the 2 partner daycares that we have partnered with. There are 4 undecided from one day care and 5 undecided from the other daycare at this time.
 - iii. Diana received an inquiry from a charter school advocate who inquired about assisting BCS with enrollment. Diana connected Henry, the board chair to have a discussion with him regarding his ideas. Henry had 2 meetings, one of which included Joanne. The school is considering shifting its hours by extending the school day in order to accommodate

working families. A presentation of ideas for the extended day will happen at the June 2023 board meeting.

- iv. Board Member Questions/Comments/Concerns from board members:
 - 1. Henry stated that the partnerships do seem to be very special because we should be enrolling more children from these daycares. It was explained that although we have a partnership and are given access to these families before other schools, it does not guarantee that the child will attend BCS.
 - 2. Message to faculty and public on the call from Joanne- this extended day does not affect the current instructional model which will stay in place. We are not compromising our academics, school culture and school spirit. We must do something radical in order to ensure that our enrollment increases for the 2023-24 school year. If we do not, we will continue to go financially backwards and this could potentially lead to the demise of the school if enrollment does not increase.

School Programming

- a. NYS Math Test (May 3rd & May 4th)- 10 opt-outs (NYS ELA Test Opt-outs-8)
- b. Summer Boost 2023 Update
 - a. Received extra funding for more students based on parent responses to the program. Funding is secured based on summer attendance. Our attendance must be at 70% each day in order to receive total funding.
 - b. P.S. 23/BCS School building is slated to be closed for the summer due to mandatory building closure for a boiler conversion
 - i. Options
 - 1. Utilizing another NYCDOE space
 - 2. Renting a space from a private facility
 - 3. Catholic schools
 - 4. Churches
 - c. Questions/Comments/Concerns from the board
 - i. Diana asked if the school space had to be in Bed-Stuy and since we budgeted for buses, the space did not have to be in the immediate area. Diana has a connection to a church in Brooklyn Heights and will inquire about the space. The maximum amount of student that we are budgeted for is 90 with approximately 20 staff members. BCS would need at least 5 classrooms in order to operate.
 - ii. Henry asked if there are any other schools open that can be utilized in the summer. Pam explained that there are DOE buildings open that are utilized as “hub” schools which basically

means that there are more than one program operating in the building which is not the most conducive setting.

- iii. Henry stated that we must have this program since we have over 70 families already committed. He stated that if we need to look into spending money to pay for a space, we can spend upwards of 50-100K. Mrs. Sanders said that she would inquire about the empty charter school space that she was referred to. Joanne stated that while we look at this as an option, we should simultaneously continue to work with the DOE to see what space they are offering to us.

c. BCS Homecoming Week:

a. Sneaker Ball Fundraiser Update(May 19th)

- i. BCS had over 200 adults and children attend this event in the school gymnasium and cafeteria.

- 2. Financial Snapshot through April 2023: Through April, the school has recognized \$2,717,213.66 in per pupil revenues. We are projecting to recognize \$3,264,192 in per pupil revenue by year end. This end of year per pupil projection is based on our current enrollment of 165 GENED students and 17 SPED students. We have also forecasted to receive \$468,335 in federal funding. We have incurred \$3,191,119.13 in expenses through April 30th. The forecasted end of year deficit is approximately \$208,000. Contributing to the deficit are the Summer Boost expenses. These expenses have to be included in this budget because the funding we received to cover the expenses is included in this budget. BCS spends about \$330,000-\$375,000 a month on operating expenses. As of, May 23rd we have \$1,631,450 of cash in the bank. Of that balance there is \$1,136,712 in investment accounts, \$494,738 in cash accounts, and \$76,000 in the escrow account. We currently have 100 of days on cash on hand which can cover 3 months of expenses

- i. Ariel offered further clarity to our deficit at the beginning of the financial report. BCS' SPED numbers decreased due to students being declassified for services. While this is great news for students as it shows that they are no longer in need of SPED services, once they are declassified for services, we no longer receive the SPED money for them. This is a partial reason for the current deficit. BCS initially had 25 students that fell in the >60 category of sped services. Throughout the course of the year, students were declassified which led to the >60 category number to drop to 17.59. This represents about \$141K which is contributing to the current deficit.
- ii. Mark asked if we agree with the declassification of the students or is there a case that can be made for them. Joanne explained that that all SPED students have a re-evaluation meeting at some point during the course of the school year that includes the Committee of Special

Education (NYCDOE), the parent and the school. The decision to declassify or shift services is solely based on student progress. This is something that we cannot predict and something that we do not have the final say in. We will object to a declassification if we strongly disagree, but that does not happen often as the decisions for declassifying a student are based on their academic progress from multiple sources. So while declassification is great for the student it does not help our current budget situation.

- b. Sneaker Ball Fundraiser- BCS raised a little over \$5000 from ticket sales and donations.
- c. Board Questions/Comments/Concerns:
 - 1. Henry wanted to get a general understanding of our current actuals in the bank. Ariel confirmed that we have approximately 1.6 million in the bank including investment accounts, cash & escrow accounts.

1. Staffing Considerations for 2022-23:

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

2. Additional Board Items/Questions:

- a. Update to Playground Concerns (Lack of daily clean-up/weeds are growing out of control, drug paraphernalia & empty liquor bottles are visible to students daily)
- b. 2023-24 BCS School Safety Plan Draft information- Board members received a copy of the draft plan for review. It will be discussed at the next board meeting. The parent body will have an opportunity to review the draft plan and provide comment at the May 31, 2023 PTA meeting.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Date & Location of next meeting: 171 East 80th Street, New York and Zoom.

- a. Upcoming Board Meeting Date(s): June 5, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

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