

Board Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Diana Lee
Feona Chance-Huezo

Others Present

Joanne Hunt
Ariel Arnold
Anna Toma
Nora Balla
Angel Perez

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting
Time: February 26, 2025 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Place: 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206, Room 322

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m.

School Programming:

Academic

NYS Practice Exams

- Students in grades 3-5 will be taking a NYS Math Practice Mock Exam Day 1 and Day 2 (February 26-27)
- Students in grades 3-5 will be taking a NYS ELA Practice Mock Exam the following week (March 5-6).
- Teachers target 2-3 students to practice a certain skill and work on test prep goals.
- Data collected from these practice exams will be used to restructure small groups in order to target necessary prescribed instruction.
- All students in grades 3-5 will have test prep sessions at least 3-4 times a week in ELA and Math.
- All grades are broken down into 4 groups with individual teachers

Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS)

- MTSS Cycle #3 was completed and showed that in-class interventions have been working to help students make growth. There were some initial evaluations that have been made, however most students who were previously brought up in MTSS cycles 1 & 2 were making progress and did not need to begin a referral/evaluation process.

2025 Summer Boost Application/Program

- BCS will be applying for the 2025 Summer Boost Program through Bloomberg Philanthropies for 1/3 of our student population (funding for approximately 66 students with the capacity to serve up to 80 students)
- Application is due on Friday, March 14th. BCS should have an answer by mid-April as to whether we have received funding for the program.

Organizational

- Organizational Updates:
 - Attendance Improvement Plan Updates
 - 2024: % of students with 90% attendance through 1/31/25: 94% (187/199)
 - 2023: % of students with 90% attendance through 1/31/24: 90% (170/191)
 - Mid-year parent attendance meeting: Admin is in the process of conducting 3 parent meetings for students with egregious absences at this time.

Board Questions/Comments: Henry asked “What a mock exam?” Ms. Toma explained that it is a practice test with the skills that student’s will need to know for the actual NYS exams. Ms. Toma broke down the number of passages and types of questions that are usually asked on the ELA exams. Ms. Balla broke down what a math mock exam consists of. Henry also wanted to know how many students take the test on computers. Ms. Toma explained that the 4th & 5th graders will be taking their exams on the computer and 3rd grade will take paper tests. 3rd graders will shift to Computer-Based Testing in the 2025-26 school year. Feona asked- what is our trajectory and can we predict how the students will do on NYS exams? Ms. Toma and Ms. Balla explained that the mock exams give us an indicator of how the students may potentially perform on the exams and we also use their work from daily Close Reading and Math Test Prep to review the growth or regression of each student in ELA and Math. This is how the school is able to create small groups in order to set goals for each student. Diana asked a question regarding MTSS and what some of the interventions are. Ms. Toma replied that there is a wide-range of interventions for both ELA and Math but some are: chunking texts, graphic organizers, modified work, small intervention groups in math, writing & reading, utilizing visuals and manipulatives, etc.)

Renewal Updates: The Public Meeting will be held via Zoom on Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Details will be sent to all members of the board for participation purposes.

Board Questions/Comments: A board member asked what happens at the public hearing. Ms. Hunt explained that it is a time for the school to speak about the current renewal period coupled with an opportunity for the public to share their experience with the school.

Enrollment January 2024 Update

- Grade K: 37 (2 sections) 36
- Grade 1: 40 (2 sections) 40
- Grade 2: 31 (2 sections) 33
- Grade 3: 27 (1 section) 27
- Grade 4: 27 (1 section) 28
- Grade 5: 34 (2 sections) 40
 - **Total Students: 196 (196)**
 - Lost 1 student (4th grader- parent upset with their child’s academic performance)
 - **Current New Admits: 74 (73)**
 - One new admit in February 2025 (A new 3rd grader)
 - **Total New Admits:** August 2024: 59, September 2024: 65, October: 73, November: 74, December: 75, January: 0, February: 1
 - **Temporary Housing Update:** 36 students (18% of our student population)

- **Summit Afterschool Program**
 - 94 students registered (83-84 average daily attendance)

Recruitment- Mr. Angel

- Currently we have 90 applications in our current BCS School Lottery System.
- We have over 55 Kindergarten applications at this time.
- Mr. Angel made direct outreach to 3 shelters for the potential idea of BCS offering private bus service in the 2025-26 school.
- Mr. Angel spoke about the success of tabling at 3 community partners (Daycares within distance: Sumner's 2 sites/Tompkins Community Center)
- BCS will appear in the Daily News Showcase on March 9, 2025.
- BCS will have two Open Houses for interested families on March 19th and March 26th from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- The BCS Lottery will be held on April 3, 2025.
- BCS will increase our Google ads for upcoming lottery.

Board Questions/Comments:

The board wanted to know how many applications BCS had the same time last year. BCS had a total of 70 total applications at this time last year. A board member asked how long can a family member stay in a shelter? At the time, we did not have an answer and will update the board at the March 2025 board meeting.

Financial Report (January 2025)

Through January 2025, the school has recognized \$2,543,450.12 in per pupil revenues. We are projecting to recognize \$4,295,733.87 in per pupil revenue by year end. We received the funds for the 5th per pupil invoice totaling \$698,428.31. In regards to federal funds our Title IA and IIA allocations for the year have increased by \$15,640.

We have incurred \$2,320,167.17 in expenses through January 2025. As of today, we currently have \$2,040,651 in our cash and investment accounts. Without the use of our investment accounts we have two months of cash (60 days) on hand to cover operating expenses.

Board Questions/Comments: Henry asked for a comparison of our endowment from the same time last year. In February 2024, at the close of the month, our endowment was \$1,259,476 and as of February of 2025, the endowment is currently \$1,259,080. Henry requested an update of the school's endowment at each board meeting moving forward.

Personnel Updates: None

Board Comments/Concerns: None

Other School Business:

- Parent Representation on the Board- Now that BCS has an established Executive PTA Board, there will be a member from the PTA that will hold a seat on the BCS School Board for the remainder of the school year beginning in March 2025.
- Tragic Loss of a BCS Parent- 2 of our students (a Kindergartener/1st grader) unexpectedly lost their father to gun violence. The school has put in supports for the two

students including grievance counseling.

Public Comment: None

Date & Location of next meeting: March 31, 2025 at 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206.

Adjournment: Adjournment. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:01 p.m. with a motion from Diana, seconded by Feona. All voting members were in favor (3) with (0) opposed.