

Board Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair

Diana Lee

Anthony Betaudier

Feona Chance-Huezo

Others Present

Joanne Hunt

Ariel Arnold

Anna Toma

Nora Balla

Angel Perez

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting

Time: May 21, 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 6:08 p.m.

Board Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2025 meeting was made by Tony and seconded by Henry. All voting members were in favor (4) with (0) opposed.

Renewal Updates:

- On May 5, 2025, the NYS SUNY Board of Regents, voted to approve a five-year full term renewal with conditions.

Board Questions/Comments: None

School Programming/Academic Updates

- **Academic Updates**
 - **NYS Testing Updates**
 - **# of opt-out students per grade**
 - ELA 3rd grade: 1/26
 - ELA 4th grade: 1/27
 - ELA 5th grade: 2/33
 - Math 3rd grade: 0/26
 - Math 4th grade: 1/27
 - Math 5th grade: 9/33
 - Science 5th grade: 8/33
 - **Curriculum Updates**
 - BCS would like to introduce a new Math Curriculum for the 2025-26 school year. BCS is considering utilizing Illustrative Math (IM) which is a problem-based core curriculum designed to address content and practice standards to foster learning for all. Students learn by doing math, solving problems in mathematical and real-world contexts, and constructing arguments using precise language.
 - Ms. Balla reported that currently teachers have some limited access to

the curriculum yet will be able to dig into the information very soon. Ms. Balla plans on conducting workshops on how to plan and instruct the curriculum for pre-service and the upcoming school year. A roll-out plan is in the process of being developed.

2025 Summer Boost Program Update

- BCS received funding for 64 students for a grant total of \$121440. BCS had 83 students apply for the program. BCS will overenroll to ensure attendance mandates are met. Students are required to participate in 70% of the program.
- BCS was awarded \$121,440 (funding for 1/3 of our student population: 64 students)
- BCS plans to operate in its current location (545 Willoughby Avenue)

Board Questions/Comments:

- Henry asked a specific question about ELA, “Does BCS teach grammar?” and “Do we teacher cursive?” Ms. Toma responded to the question about teaching grammar and explained that the research connected to the science of reading has deemed it ineffective to teach grammar and usage in isolation. Grammar is integrated within lessons so that it remains relative to students as they learn. Ms. Hunt answered the question regarding cursive and that it is not required to be taught in current Humanities curricula. The appropriate time to introduce students to cursive handwriting is in the 3rd grade.
- Henry also asked, “At what grade should a child be able to read? Students should be able to decode fluently by the end of first grade in order to focus on comprehension moving into second and third grade. It is expected that by the fourth/fifth grade children should have a firm grasp of decoding and comprehension in order to be considered fluent readers.
- Diana asked, “Do we encourage students to opt-out of the NYS tests?” Ms. Balla responded, “Absolutely not, parents must request in writing that they want to opt their child(ren) out of NYS testing.”
- Ms. Balla was asked to explain the difference between the current Eureka Math Squared curriculum and Illustrative Math. The proposed curriculum is more teacher friendly and explicitly differentiates for different learners (Sped, At-risk, ENL, etc.)
- Ms. Balla was also asked to explain the potential roll-out of the new math curriculum. For the June 2025 board meeting, Ms. Balla will present a roll-out plan for the potential new math curriculum.
- Feona asked “Do we meet with teachers before we change a curriculum?” Ms. Balla responded that she meets with teachers on a weekly basis and that they have had discussion about the proposed new curriculum.

Organizational Updates

- Organizational Updates:
 - Attendance Improvement Plan Updates
 - 2025: % of students with 90% attendance through 4/30/25: 68% (131/193)
 - 2024: % of students with 90% attendance through 3/31/25: 53%

(103/194)

- The overall reported Chronic Absenteeism rate from NYSED for the 2023-24 school year was 58%.

Board Questions/Comments: None

Enrollment 2024-25 Update

- Grade K: 37 (2 sections) 37
- Grade 1: 40 (2 sections) 40
- Grade 2: 32 (2 sections) 32
- Grade 3: 27 (1 section) 27
- Grade 4: 27 (1 section) 27
- Grade 5: 34 (2 sections) 34
 - **Total Students: 193 (197)**
 - **Discharged Students: 4**
 - **Current New Admits: 76 (75)**
 - One new admit in May 2025
 - **Total New Admits:** August 2024: 59, September 2024: 65, October: 73, November: 74, December: 75, January: 0, February: 1, March: 1, April: 0, May: 1
 - **Summit Afterschool Program**
 - 96 students registered (83-84 average daily attendance)

Temporary Housing Update: Currently 26 students (13% of our student population)

- **The good news:** In April 2025, there were a total of 38 students (19%) reflected on the NYCDOE ATS RATH report. Since our last board meeting, 9 students were removed from this list and have either received permanent housing or their situation has changed. Of the four students that BCS lost this month, one of those students received permanent housing that was too far of a distance to commute to BCS daily. Two of these four students entered into a DV shelter in another borough.

Recruitment- Mr. Angel

- 59 Kindergarten applications received
 - 21 Kindergarteners have accepted a space to date (1 full class)
 - 6 potential kindergarteners from our Day Care Partnership no included in the above 21 students
 - Student return survey update:
 - Current Enrollment: 193
 - 34 Fifth-graders graduating leaving BCS with a total of 159 potential K-4 students
 - 143 students returning in 2025-26 (K-4)
 - 17 students not returning in 2025-26 (K-4)
 - 210 total seats to fill:
 - With 143 students returning, we will need 67 students to meet our goal of 210 total students.
 - Anticipated Kindergarten seats: 50
 - Anticipated 1-4 seats: 17

Board Questions/Comments: The board expressed their optimism with the number kindergarten acceptances at this time of the school year in preparation for the upcoming school year.

Financial Report: March 2025

Through March 2025, the school has recognized \$3,245,530 in per pupil revenues. We are projecting to recognize \$4,285,488.20 in per pupil revenue by year end. We have incurred \$3,031,633.02 in expenses through March 2025. We should be expecting the 6th per pupil payment by early next week. Through March we currently have a surplus of \$516,246 and a loss of \$29,569 this is due to a loss on investment of \$38,000. By year end we are projecting a surplus of \$24,621. As mentioned last month this number will fluctuate as the months' progress. As of today, we currently have \$1,363,645.67 in our cash and investment accounts.

Proposed per pupil allocation for 2025-26: \$19903 up from \$19044 (a difference of \$859 per student). BCS plans to enroll at least 215 students for a final overall enrollment goal of 210 students.

An Audit summary is being prepared for the board to review. The summary will include any material weaknesses that have been found from each year the school has been in existence as well as any recommendations made in the management letters (from what we are able to locate). Ms. Ariel will have this document prepared and distributed to board members by the first week of June for board review. As one of the conditions for the most recent renewal, the board must review all previous school audits by July 15 and create a plan to ensure that any outstanding material weaknesses and management recommendations have been resolved/rectified and that there is a plan to ensure that these matters do not reoccur.

Board Questions/Comments: None

Personnel Updates:

- **Compliance with Teacher Certification:** BCS had to conduct an inventory of its current teacher certification status and it was found that the school is severely out of compliance. Current NYS charter school law allows for a charter school to have up to 75% or 5 teachers whichever is less. BCS is over the percentage and number of teachers allowed at this time. BCS will be meeting with all teachers to determine current certification status, certification plans and whether teachers will be able to return to BCS in the 2025-26 school year based on current certification status.

Board Comments/Concerns: Several board members expressed their concern with the number of uncertified teachers at the school and would like an update at the June/July 2025 board meeting(s) of the status and plan for bringing the school into compliance for the 2025-26 school year.

Other School Business: None

Public Comment: None

Date & Location of next meeting: June 17, 2025 at 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206.

Adjournment: Adjournment. The meeting was officially adjourned at 6:55 p.m. with a motion from Henry, seconded by Diana. All voting members were in favor (4) with (0) opposed.