

Board Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Diana Lee
Anthony Betaudier
Feona Chance-Huezo
Natalia Sealey

Others Present

Joanne Hunt
Ariel Arnold
Anna Toma
Nora Balla
Angel Perez

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting
Time: June 17, 2025 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Place: 181 East 80th Street, New York, New York

The meeting was called to order at 6:41 p.m.

Board Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the May 21, 2025 meeting was made by Tony and seconded by Diana. All voting members were in favor (5) with (0) opposed.

School Programming/Academic Updates

- **Academic Updates**
 - **Curriculum Updates**
 - Illustrative Math will be the new curriculum BCS will utilize for 2025- 2026 school year.
 - Ms. Balla met with a representative to discuss roll-out/implementation PD for preservice.
 - IM has a different approach to teaching math; teachers will be trained in the use of the curriculum to teach from a problem-solving perspective rather than showing students a procedure to follow that leaves out conceptual understanding.
 - Ms. Balla mentioned that Illustrative Math is a mandatory math curriculum in the NYC DOE HS's. (Through a program called NYC SOLVES).
 - Middle Schools are starting to integrate Illustrative Math along with two other programs.
 - Overall, the math teaching, learning, and understanding has to move away from being only conceptual and abstract to students with meaningless procedure and numbers to something more concrete and relatable at first, and then move into more sophistication.

2025 Summer Boost Program Update

- BCS received funding for 66 students for a grant total of \$121440.
- BCS had 85 students apply for the program. 73 Summer Boost contracts have been returned from families to date.

- BCS will operate in its current location (545 Willoughby Avenue) from June 30 – August 1 at total of 23 days.

Board Questions/Comments: Henry asked if he would still be "borrowing from the tens place?" Ms. Balla explained that borrowing would still be happening, but it would be called re-grouping, because we want students to understand what is happening to the numbers/quantities that we are working with. Tony asked "how long this curriculum has been around". Ms. Balla answered since 2011-2012. Tony followed up by asking about its relevance to teaching math this way to other parts of the world, and Ms. Balla answered that Math teaching happens like this in other parts of the world. (No specific country was given.) *This is a more constructivist approach to math teaching, through problem solving.* Ms. Sealey asked how changing the curriculum will affect students moving from grades 2 to 3 and grades 3-4 since they are acclimating to a new curriculum. Will students be able to adjust? Ms. Balla answered that the approach to math is shifting but the content will remain the same. So basically students should be able to acclimate in the older grades because they will just be learning new ways to approach the concepts they have and will be learning. **Question for the July board meeting:** At our school, do boys perform better than girls in ELA and Math or vice-versa? How does this compare in NYS and NYC? We will have an answer at the July 2025 board meeting.

- Organizational Updates:
 - Attendance Improvement Plan Updates
 - 2025: % of students with 90% attendance through 5/31/25: 68% (143/192)
 - 2024: % of students with 90% attendance through 5/31/24: 53% (103/194)
 - The overall reported Chronic Absenteeism rate from NYSED for the 2023-24 school year was 60%.
 - Chronic Absenteeism rate for 2024-25 was 58%. Based on the above preliminary data, it appears that BCS has improved in this area; we will need to wait for our June numbers to get a better idea of our actual percentage of improvement.

Board Questions/Comments: None

Enrollment 2024-25 Update

- Grade K: 35 (2 sections) 37
- Grade 1: 39 (2 sections) 39
- Grade 2: 30 (2 sections) 32
- Grade 3: 27 (1 section) 27
- Grade 4: 27 (1 section) 27
- Grade 5: 34 (2 sections) 34
 - **Total Students: 192 (193)**
 - We lost one students since the last board meeting (Shelter student-received permanent housing)
 - **Discharged Students: 1**
 - **Current New Admits: 76 (75)**
 - **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, June: 0

Recruitment- Mr. Angel

- **Student Return Survey**
 - 192 Students on register (34 graduating) = 158
 - Students not returning via grade:
 - K- 3
 - 1- 2
 - 2- 5
 - 3- 1
 - 4- 1
 - Total: 12
 - Starting enrollment for 2025-26 = 146 (Goal:215)
 - + 45 kindergarteners
 - 21 seats to fill in other grades

Board Questions/Comments: None

Financial Report: March 2025

Through May 2025, the school has recognized \$3,932,236.72 in per pupil revenues. We are projecting to recognize \$4,287,994.20 in per pupil revenue by year end. We have incurred \$3,903,280.59 in expenses through May 2025. We are currently projecting a surplus of \$18,862. This number will fluctuate as the per-pupil numbers will be updated over the summer when the per pupil reconciliation invoice is submitted. We received the ERC funds in the amount of \$284,011 which will be deposited and booked as income this week. We made adjustments to a few budget lines based on spending trends for the year (i.e. technology supplies, medical insurance, and textbooks/curriculum) to name a few. As of today, we currently have \$1,740,008.50 in our cash and investment accounts.

The Audit summaries from FY 06 to FY 24 were discussed in detail. The summaries included any material weaknesses/deficiencies that have been found since FY 06 as well as any recommendations from the auditors. All financial matters prior to FY 17 were managed by a previous BCS Finance Manager. A comprehensive action plan to ensure that any outstanding material weaknesses from FY 17 - FY 24 was created under the current Finance Manager. These items have been resolved/rectified and there is a plan to ensure that these matters do not reoccur in future audits.

Board Questions/Comments: None

Personnel Updates:

- **Compliance with Teacher Certification:** Mr. Morales and Ms. Hunt met with all uncertified teachers in May 2025 to discuss next steps individually based on current individual credentials or lack thereof.

Board Comments/Concerns: None

Other School Business: None

Public Comment: None

Date & Location of next meeting: July 23, 2025 at 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206.

Adjournment: Adjournment. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:30 p.m. with a motion from Tony, seconded by Diana. All voting members were in favor (5) with (0) opposed.