

### **Board Members Present**

Henry A. Lambert, Chair  
Diana Lee  
Mark David  
Feona Chance-Huezo  
Natalia Sealey

### **Others Present**

Joanne Hunt  
Ariel Arnold  
Anna Toma  
Nora Balla

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting  
Time: July 23, 2025 6:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Place: Brooklyn Charter School

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

**Board Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes from the June 17, 2025 meeting was made by Diana and seconded by Mark. All voting members were in favor (4) with (0) opposed.

### **School Programming/Academic Updates**

- **Academic Updates**
  - **First day of school: Wednesday, September 3, 2025**
  - **Curriculum Updates**
    - Illustrative Math updates:
      - Ms. Balla will be meeting with representatives on 7/24/25 from the Illustrative Math curriculum to discuss the logistics of the professional development that will occur during the August pre-service week for teachers.
      - There is a reduction to the original quote for the math curriculum materials because we will be ordering the majority of the materials through FAMIS which is a NYCDOE fiscal system that provides money to schools for textbooks, curriculum materials and technology resources. (\$17,043.80 vs \$15,654.40) Each school receives a FAMIS budget each year. This year BCS will use the majority of our FAMIS budget for the new math curriculum. FAMIS had a majority of the items listed for purchase, which would cut down on the cost of the materials.
  - Response to the question from the previous board meeting regarding how boys perform on NYS assessments versus girls at BCS. In looking at BCS testing data specifically for the past two years (2022-23 and 2023-24), NYS testing data revealed that girls are slightly outperforming the boys in both ELA and Math. The data for students in District 14 (comparative district data) and Citywide (NYS) also shows that girls have been slightly outperforming boys in both ELA and Math over that last two testing years. Research also indicates that while girls are outperforming boys in academics, girls are unhappier in school due to their

classroom experiences and interactions with peers and adults. More girls feel stressed during their learning process and they are less likely to report to their teachers when they have trouble learning something or when they are in need of support when upset. Mark asked a follow-up question about how attendance relates to this data. We will look into this for the next board meeting to see if we can find information that connects attendance to academic performance of boys and girls.

- 2025 Summer Boost Program Updates
  - Total # of students enrolled in the program is 81.
  - The average daily attendance is 61 students. (Daily goal: 46) BCS is on track to receive the full funding for the program: \$121440.
  - Summer Boost Site Visit: The Site Manager and a representative from Bloomberg Philanthropies conducted a site visit on July 22, 2025. All 5 Summer Boost classrooms were observed and the Ms. Hunt met with the visitors to discuss the components of the program, more specifically, the enrichment (afternoon) portion of the program. The visiting team was very pleased with the program and sent a follow-up email to Ms. Hunt to express their thoughts about the visit.

**Board Questions/Comments:** Henry asked, “What was the criteria used to select the program?” Ms. Balla answered that Illustrative Math 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. Overall, the math teaching, learning, and understanding will be moving away from being only conceptual and abstract to students with meaningless procedures and numbers to something more concrete and relatable at first, and then move into more sophistication. Students will have a better number sense and will be moving away from traditional memorization and rote thinking. While the approach to math is shifting the content will remain the same. Mark asked something along the lines of whether this would be very new or different for teachers. Would it be very different from how they teach math now? Ms. Balla explained that it would be somewhat different in that it approaches math teaching through problem solving rather than the traditional "I do, We do, You do" Or I show you and you just copy what I just did, also known as only procedural math.

- Organizational Updates:
  - NYS Annual Report due August 1<sup>st</sup>
    - Disclosure of Financial Interest forms are due from each board member. Currently we have 4 of 6 board member forms. Ms. Hunt will send a reminder to get those completed.
  - Attendance Improvement Plan Updates
    - 2025: % of students with 90% attendance through 6/30/25: 67% (128/191)
    - 2024: % of students with 90% attendance through 6/30/24: 54% (102/194)
    - The overall reported Chronic Absenteeism rate from NYSED for the 2023-24 school year was 58%.
    - The BCS Chronic Absenteeism rate for 2024-25 should improve to

somewhere in between 65-68% based on the above preliminary data. BCS will continue the attendance management program in the upcoming school year.

**Board Questions/Comments:** None

### **June 2025 Enrollment Update**

- Grade K: 35 (2 sections)
- Grade 1: 39 (2 sections)
- Grade 2: 30 (2 sections)
- Grade 3: 27 (1 section)
- Grade 4: 27 (1 section)
- Grade 5: 34 (2 sections)
  - **Total Students: 191**

**Student Return Survey-** There were some adjustments to our returning student numbers. Initially 12 students expressed that they would not be returning for the 2025-26 school year. 3 of those 12 students have informed the school that they will return for the 2025-26 school year. Below is our new formula for 2025-26 overall enrollment:

- 191 Students on register (34 graduating) = 157
  - Students not returning via grade:
    - K- 3
    - 1- 2
    - 2- 3
    - 3- 0
    - 4- 1
    - Total: 9
  - Starting enrollment for 2025-26 = 148 (Goal:210)
    - + 45 kindergarteners
    - +17 seats to fill in other grades
    - Current returning and new admits with paperwork per grade as of 7/22/25:
      - Kindergarten: 7 holdovers/22 new admits/12 pending paperwork: Total: 41
      - 1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 24 returning/6 holdovers/2 new admits: Total: 32
      - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 31 returning/3 holdovers/2 new admits: Total: 36
      - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 24 returning/2 new admits: Total: 26
      - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 27 returning/1 new admit: Total: 27
      - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 26 returning/ 0 new admits: Total: 26
      - **Total: 188 (22 openings available)**

**Board Questions/Comments:** None

**Financial Report: March 2025**

Through June 2025, the school has recognized \$4,272,290.70 in per pupil revenues. We are in the process of submitting the per pupil reconciliation at the end of this week to determine if we will receive additional funds or will we have to owe the NYCDOE due to our final enrollment numbers. We have incurred \$4,692,196.36 in expenses through June 2025. Our year end surplus is estimated at approximately \$113K. We received the ERC funds which will be deposited and booked as income this week. As we reviewed our year end actual expenses vs budgeted amounts, there were savings in a few budget lines (i.e. technology supplies, medical insurance, textbooks/curriculum) to name a few. To date, we currently have \$1,740,008.50 in our cash and investment accounts.

#### Audit Comprehensive Action Plan

- NYCDOE received the plan on 7/14/25 via email. It was due on 7/15/25
- BCS addressed the 3 significant deficiencies/weaknesses that were identified since FY 2017 to ensure that they would not occur in the future:
  - FY 18- Significant Adjustment was required to reduce the net asset balance and increase the salary accrual to correct prior period error. Resolution: As of FY 19, the Finance Manager has ensured that all appropriate salary accruals are recorded within their correct accounts and time periods as required.
  - FY 21- Significant Deficiency regarding Government grants and per-pupil revenue reconciliation. Resolution: Beginning in FY 22, BCS implemented a more in-depth review and analysis of the per pupil invoicing process. This process allows for any attendance discrepancies to be discovered internally before submission of invoices. Specific faculty members are charged to complete a monthly review of class lists, attendance as well as new student admittance dates and discharge dates for withdrawn students.
  - FY 24- Significant Deficiency- Missing Fingerprint Clearance for one staff member. Resolution: Beginning in FY 25, Brooklyn Charter School implemented a more vigilant hiring process to ensure that all employees have fingerprint clearance prior to their ability to commence employment.

**Board Questions/Comments:** None

#### **Personnel Updates:**

BCS has the following vacancies:

- Kindergarten SPED
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade SPED
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Gen ED
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade SPED

We have 3 candidates at this time that we are pursuing for the above positions. We are in the process of interviewing and conducting demonstration lessons within our Summer Boost classrooms.

**Board Comments/Concerns:** None

**Other School Business:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**Date & Location of next meeting:** August 26, 2025 at 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206.

**Adjournment: Adjournment.** The meeting was officially adjourned at 5:30 p.m. with a motion from Diana, seconded by Mark. All voting members were in favor (4) with (0) opposed.