

Board Members Present

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

Others Present

Joanne Hunt
Ariel Arnold
Anna Toma
Nora Balla

Topic: BCS Board of Trustees Meeting
Time: October 30, 2025 6:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Place: Brooklyn Charter School

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

Board Minutes: A motion to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2025 meeting was made by Mark and seconded by Henry. All voting members were in favor (5) with (0) opposed.

Academic Updates

Humanities Updates

- Ms. Toma (Assistant Principal) shared the following information:
 - Close Reading has begun for grades 2-5. Close Reading is
 - Close reading assessment was taken today, 10/30/25. This assessment will serve as the baseline in order to create small groups for prescribed Close Reading instruction. This assessment is comparable to the NYS ELA test and provides data aligned to NYS testing. Computer-based Close Reading is slated to begin on Thursday, 11/13/25.
 - The Special Education Compliance Coordinator (Ms. Karen) facilitated a Specially Designed Instruction (SDI) workshop during our Club Time frame on Wednesday with Integrated Co-Teacher (ICT) teams.

Mathematics Updates: New Math Curriculum (Illustrative Math)

- Ms. Balla (Assistant Principal) shared the following information:
 - Math small groups have begun.
 - Ms. Balla met with teachers to review i-ready diagnostic data.
 - Each teacher meets with two groups within a 6-week cycle.
 - Every grade has small groups for math at least 3x a week.
 - Teachers are using a tracker to create groups with a set schedule that indicates specific skills that will be targeted based on the data.
 - Students in these groups are typically students who do not have other services already available.
 - Math Interim assessments will take place on November 18th for grades 1-5.

Board Questions/Comments: Henry asked, "If you have a student who is dysfunctional, how do we give them special care? Henry also asked, "How many students do we have with severe needs or special needs? Ms. Balla answered, that there is a process within the school to work with students who are identified with special needs. Teachers identify students based on current academic, social and emotional behaviors observed. There are meetings that occur in 6-8 week cycles called Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to begin a plan for each of these identified students. The plan is then put in place for another 6-8 weeks to see if there are any shifts academically, socially and emotionally for each student. Depending on what has occurred in this cycle, additional supports may be put into place or the need for an evaluation may be introduced. Depending upon the result of an evaluation, further supports may/will be put into place. The MTSS team monitors the progress/regress of all students who have been brought to the attention of this team to ensure that students are consistently receiving supports throughout the school year.

Organizational/Programming Updates

2025-26 Enrollment Update: BCS currently has 176 students on register.

Grade	Actual	Last month	+ or -
K	34	36	-2
1	27	27	0
2	37	36	+1
3	29	30	-1
4	26	26	0
5	23	22	+1
Total	176	177	-1

New Admits/Discharges (September 23 – October 30)

New Admits: BCS admitted a total of 5 students from 9/23-10/30.

Kindergarten	1
Grade 1	0
Grade 2	1
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	1
Grade 5	1
Total	5

Discharges: BCS discharged a total of 6 students from 9/30-10/30.

Kindergarten	3
Grade 1	0
Grade 2	0
Grade 3	1
Grade 4	1
Grade 5	1
Total	6

In response to the uptick of attrition, BCS administration has continued the following:

- Hyper Local Visibility
 - Attend a Brooklyn Charter School Fair on Saturday, November 1, 2025 at the Major Owens Complex from 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. Mr. Angel and Ms. Hunt will represent the school at the charter school fair.
 - The BCS flyer has been updated and a BCS Door Hanger was been created and is utilized by the BCS Street Team.
 - BCS Street Team-The BCS Street Team has completed at least 3 neighborhood sweeps and has dropped off BCS information at several neighborhood businesses. The team will continue its neighborhood sweeps in November.
- We are in the process of rebranding of the school website to reflect current programming and more information about our extended day program and free transportation.
- After School Spaces- Creating more spaces as needed for new enrollees in the after school program.
- Private Van Advertisement (Student Transportation) – the BCS van has been officially wrapped and is transporting eligible students to and from school.

Board Questions/Comments: The BCS school board remains concerned with the number of students that did not return for the 2025-26 school year. Diana asked, how many students did we end the 2024-25 school year with? The number was 196. Diana also asked, have we looked at where our demographics come from. Ms. Hunt answered that the about 65% of the students come from the school's catchment area and the other 35% come from other Brooklyn neighborhoods by way of yellow school bus or private van service. Diana also mentioned that maybe we can look into merging with another school with declining enrollment. Ms. Hunt discussed the overall decline in student enrollment within the district as well as in the city over the last 2-3 years. There was a NY Times article that highlighted the number of families that were leaving NYC due to high cost of living as well as shelter displacement. Many of our families that were in neighboring shelters have been relocated to the Bronx which makes the commute to BCS unreasonable on a daily basis resulting in these students attending new schools closer to their current residences. Board members also suggested that we continue to raise student achievement with our NYS ELA and Math test scores. BCS made solid gains in the 2024-25 school year and in order to continue to attract families, it is imperative that our test scores continue to increase.

Financial Report: September 2025

The BCS Finance Committee met with the SAXE LLP (Independent School Auditors) on October 29th to review the audit draft which was shared with Board of Trustees for review. The auditors issued an unmodified opinion which means that the financials were presented fairly in all material aspects. There were no findings or material adjustments, and the prior year findings were resolved in the current fiscal year. The Endowment at year end was \$653,846 a \$57K increase from FY24. BCS made \$83,898 in investment gains in FY2024-25.

A motion to approve the current 2024-25 Independent audit was made by Henry and seconded by Henry and seconded by Feona. All voting members were in favor (5) with (0) opposed.

As of, October 30th, BCS has \$2,329,579 in our cash and investment accounts. Due to our lower than anticipated enrollment, the Principal and Finance Manager will begin to look at areas in which the school can make budget modifications to align with our current enrollment number. Ms. Hunt will meet with Henry to further discuss ideas and will bring this information to the school board.

Board Questions/Comments: None

Personnel Updates:

- BCS has the following vacancies: 3rd Grade Gen Ed Teacher

Board Comments/Concerns: None

Other School Business:

- NYC School Bus Disruption to potentially begin on 11/3/25- Several yellow school bus companies are threatening to strike if contract negotiations are not finalized with the NYCDOE. The NYCDOE has developed several solutions in the event that there are bus disruptions (issuing student OMNY cards, ride share travel if eligible, etc.) set to begin on 11/3/25. The school was informed via a NYCDOE conference call of charter schools to discuss these potential solutions and how to communicate this information with families.
- SNAP Benefits to potentially end on 11/01/25 due to the government shutdown
 - 78% of our families could be affected- the school social worker has put together a document sharing resources that families can utilize in the event that they are in need of food during this potential disruption.
- Campus Camera Installation Project (Public spaces only) - there is a construction project happening at the school building which is requiring cameras to be installed in public spaces. The project is set to begin in November 2025 and end by May 2026.

Board Questions/Comments: Mark asked, "What prompted the need for cameras?" Joanne answered that all New York City public schools are having cameras installed and it is simply our turn. All cameras will be placed in public spaces only and around the exterior of our school building.

Public Comment: None

Date & Location of next meeting: November 20, 2025 at 545 Willoughby Avenue, Brooklyn, New York 11206.

Adjournment: Adjournment. The meeting was officially adjourned at 6:45 p.m. with a motion from Diane, seconded by Mark. All voting members were in favor (5) with (0) opposed.