

Members Present

Henry A. Lambert, Chair
Diana Lee
Tony Betaudier
Mark David
Joanne Hunt (ex-officio non-voting)

Others Present

Pamptata Sanders
Mary Kate Boesch
Ariel Arnold
Robert Morales
Mr. Angel

The meeting was held on June 5th, 2019 at the home of Henry Lambert. The meeting was called to order at 6pm. The minutes for the meeting held on May 5th, 2019 were approved.

Enrollment & Admissions

The school is still holding at 206 students. There have been 80 kindergarten applications with 25 confirmed incoming students. It is highly likely that the 25 children who have submitted their confirmed paperwork will all attend. This was as a result of our deliberate outreach and persistent follow ups. The prospective students were entered into the system before the summer, which BCS never used to do.

Next year in order to increase the number of applications and the yield we should run the BEST orientation program earlier in the year. This program was a great success with 19 families attending the program. This provides the children with the BCS school experience prior to starting at the school. It reduces anxiety when entering the school in September and it generally increases the families' commitment to the school. The incoming students attended music, technology, and dance classes. The running of the program was seamless and worked well with the school's schedule. We want to see how to increase attendance in this program in the future. As it is difficult for families to bring their kids to this we are exploring if in the future providing more notice would help.

BCS will investigate what other schools are doing in terms of increasing applications and yields. BCS has good relationships with several schools with whom they have shared practices in the past and so will use this network to investigate these practices. They are in different neighborhoods and so there is no conflict.

In order to increase applications to BCS, the school has been focusing on organizations and daycares along our bus routes and in the neighborhood from which we are currently drawing our students. This outreach focuses on emphasizing that we are part of the community.

BCS is currently tackling how to get past the directors of the daycares and connect directly with the families. BCS will make one more push at daycares to try to attract parents who are currently on the fence as to where to send their children.

Mr. Angel has been going out into the community and has been reaching out to families through daycares, churches, laundromats, and doctors' offices. BCS has also re-engaged with Children of Promise, an organization which helps children whose parents are incarcerated. Nobody was maintaining this relationship but BCS is now committed to focusing on rebuilding and maintaining these sorts of relationships.

BCS will be calling every parent in September as they are great resources for identifying and attracting other families.

The administration has been working on a new mailer to market the school. Joanne will compile the bragging rights of the school, including where students go after graduating and how they perform after leaving the school.

The school needs much better signage, not just at the entrance but also once you enter the building how to get to BCS. This is a critical piece of our marketing of the school.

After School Program

There are 34 paid families still in the paid after school program. This program will end for the year on June 13th.

Academic Report

Information was provided to the Board on why we chose the curricula we are currently using. In Mathematics we have adopted the Eureka Math program. As a result of this we have seen an increase in test scores of approximately 20%.

For ELA we did not immediately change programs as we did not want to be too disruptive. Pam suggested adopting Wit and Wisdom. This curriculum digs deep into texts, both fictional and factual, and has produced better readers and writers. There has been a 9.3% improvement in ELA results, which is particularly impressive as it is unusual to see improvements in ELA scores right away. A research-based phonetics program called Foundations has also been introduced for K through 2. In this program students learn the basics of reading and they also learn tricks and rules. Punctuation is also taught as part of this program. 87% of words are decodable and follow rules, while 13% are derived from other languages.

Other School Business

Updates on bus matrons, the tutoring program, and the Dean program will be provided at the July board meeting. This will include analysis of data from 2015/2016 through to the present.

Financial Report

The school currently has \$2.1 million in the bank and is expected to break even at the year end. The school has received all per pupil monies for the year but is still waiting for Title money, which will come in July, and the private contributions.

The State wants us to maintain 3 accounts. We need to consult with the bank for their recommendations about investment accounts and need to make an issue about the importance of this. One account will have \$75,000 kept in escrow that cannot be touched, which is in case of a future dissolution of the school. Diana will check to see if we can open an escrow account at Chase.

Michael Catlyn has resigned from the Board effective as of May 31st and has been removed from all the accounts. The current PTA head and parent of a graduating student has been proposed as a potential replacement board member. The school received a 3 year renewal and a condition of this was that Michael resign from the Board.

The Compensation Survey conducted by the NYC Charter Center will be distributed to board members prior to the next board meeting for review as the 2019-20 budgeting process begins.

The Wedding Garden is shutting down. We have brought in an attorney, Kevin Drakefield, who specializes in shutting down non-profits, and we have asked him for a memorandum as to how to finalize everything in order to correctly close down the business.

The next Board Meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Charter School at 11am on July 16th, 2019.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20pm.