

**Board of Trustees Meeting
February 1, 2018
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Resolution to Approve Minutes from January 11, 2018 Board Meeting
- IV. Executive Director's Report
 - A. School Safety
 - B. Academic Programming Update
 - C. Discussion on Expectations for Reporting to Board
 - D. Update on Dispute with Towne Partners
 - E. DOE's Rental Assistance
- V. Resolution to Approve Charter Revision Request and Submit to NYSED
- VI. Resolution to Approve Corrective Action Plan and Submit to NYSED
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Next Meeting – March 1st, 2018
- X. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta
1 de febrero de 2018
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

AGENDA

- I. Inicio de Sesión
- II. Comentarios Públicos
- III. Moción para aprobar las minutas de la Reunión de la Junta del 11 de enero de 2018
- IV. Informe del Director Ejecutivo
 - A. Seguridad de la escuela
 - B. Programación Académica
 - C. Discusión en torno a las expectativas de los Informes a la Junta
 - D. Disputa con Towne Partners
 - E. Asistencia del Departamento de Educación (DOE) para pagos de renta
- V. Resolución para aprobar la Revisión de Chárter y someterla a NYSED
- VI. Resolución para aprobar el Plan de Acción Correctiva y someterlo a NYSED
- VII. Asuntos Nuevos
- VIII. Sesión Ejecutiva
- IX. Próxima Reunión – 1 de marzo de 2018
- X. Cierre de Sesión

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, February 1st, 2018
801 E 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

Board of Trustees Present: Lori Chemla, Jodi Schneider, Felicia Franklin, Serigne Gningue, Davon Russell

Board of Trustees Absent: Nancy Biberman, Valerie Capers, Andrea Cohen

SBECA Staff Present: Ric Campbell, Kelly Powers, Auriel Watson, Bruce Stansbury, Catherine Toussaint, Andre Harris, Sophia Jones, Dulce Rico, Leola Brady-Price, David Kent, Samantha Lugo

WHEDco Staff Present: Katie Aylwin

Members of the Public Present: 13

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:10 pm.

Public Comment

- Jennifer Santos said that she is concerned about the letters being sent home to families. She said that she is frustrated by the letter that stated that any child not picked up by 5:30 pm would be taken to the 40th Precinct to await pick-up. Ms. Santos also stated that she disagrees with the policy of locking the front door of the school after 4:00 pm, meaning that parents who have not picked up their students prior to that time are unable to do so until 5:15 pm. Ms. Santos also said that children are not being dismissed on time, and that she has had to wait until 5:30 for her child to exit the building. Ms. Santos also reported that she was informed of a situation with her child three weeks after it occurred, and would appreciate more timely communication. She also requested a Parent Association.
- Marquita Johnson said that she does not feel that teachers are reaching out to parents enough, particularly in the case of her child, who went from having 80-90% grade in one class to a 55%, with no teacher outreach. Ms. Johnson reports that she has been reaching out to teachers, but they have not been responding.
- Sonia Villanueva said that she is frustrated with parent/teacher communication and feels that she has no way of following up with teachers. Ms. Villanueva said that she has made herself very available to teachers, but better systems should be put into place to facilitate more open communication between teachers and families. Ms. Villanueva said that she would also like to see a Parent Association formed.
- Gloria Collazo said that she agrees with all of the previous comments made by other parents.
- Cristina Morales voiced concern about the front doors of the school being locked at all times, without a buzzer to ring to be let in. Ms. Morales's child was part of the incident that occurred

on Friday, January 26th, in a nearby park (see meeting notes below for further information), and she is concerned that only one teacher was present with two classes of students. Ms. Morales reports that her child is now seeing a counselor because of the trauma of that incident, and she is very concerned about what steps are being taken going forward.

- Gina Ruiz asked why there are no School Safety officers at SBECA, and only security guards. Ms. Ruiz is also very concerned about the incident that occurred on January 26th, and would like further information about what is happening going forward, and why there was only one teacher present.
- Priscilla Vega said that she is very concerned for the safety of SBECA students. Ms. Vega reports that the letters sent home by the school said that students are being escorted to main areas of dismissal in the neighborhoods, but her children have reported otherwise. Ms. Vega feels that pressing matters that are brought to the school by families should be treated with a higher level of importance. Ms. Vega said that she would like to see the formation of a Parent/Teacher Association.
- Naomi Vidal said that she would like to see the formation of a Parent/Teacher Association, and that she has seen the benefits of PTAs at previous schools she has been associated with, including access to teachers and the school.

Approval of Minutes

Felicia Franklin made a motion to approve the minutes from January 11th, 2018 Board Meeting as presented on February 1st, 2018. Lori Chemla seconded and the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Response to Public Comment

There was no Public Comment at January 11th's meeting, so there is no response to Public Comment.

Executive Director's Report

School Safety

Ric Campbell reported that, on January 26th, 2018, a group of 6th and 8th grade students were escorted to a local park during their PE class to play basketball at 2:30 pm. By 2:45 pm, when a neighboring school dismissed, several students from that school came to the park and started a fight with one of SBECA's 8th grade students. The SBECA teacher in the park moved to protect our students, but a student from the outside school assaulted a SBECA student; he was punched in the face and kicked after falling to the ground. The SBECA teacher on the scene restrained the student who kicked the SBECA student. A School Safety Officer from the neighboring school approached the park, and the SBECA teacher continued to restrain the student, declaring that he would like to make a citizen's arrest. The School Safety officer initially refused, but the SBECA staff insisted. The School Safety officer then took the student into custody, as if to handcuff him and began walking him out of the park, but within a few steps as she exited the park, pushed the student forward and told the student to "run as fast as you can before the police get here."

The SBECA student who was the victim of the assault was taken to the hospital, and admitted to the ICU, where he received surgery, and is now home, recovering.

Since the event occurred, two notices have been sent home to SBECA families. The students who committed the violence in the park have been identified as students who have a history of altercations with SBECA students dating back to the 2016-17 school year. Another SBECA student was assaulted in October 2017.

Now that the NYPD has received the hospital report from the family of the assaulted student, they will be pursuing the assaulting students with charges of felony assault.

Mr. Campbell reported that he has visited the neighboring school with SBECA Dean Jason Adolphus, and met with one principal in the building, and by phone with the other (two middle schools are co-located in the building with a high school and D75 school). The principal of one school gave Mr. Campbell names of the students who were involved in the incident based on photographs brought to the meeting, and Mr. Campbell turned their names over to the detective assigned to the case.

On Monday, January 29th, a group of students from the neighboring school waited outside the gates of SBECA during dismissal, and a soft lockdown was implemented. Students who dismiss at 3:15 were held in the cafeteria, and the police were called. At 4:00, officers arrived and escorted students to main transportation areas in the neighborhood. This protocol has been in place throughout the week, with fewer police, but with many faculty members helping to escort students to the bus or train.

Mr. Campbell hopes that an arrest will deter further incidents involving students from this neighboring school. As of right now, no classes will be using the nearby parks for recreation spaces or engaging in outdoor activities in the neighborhood.

Several parents in attendance questioned why there was no walkie-talkie taken to the park, and what physical activity would take place, given that they can no longer go outside. Mr. Campbell replied that students will be taken outside on the roof of the building for recreation, and there will be recreation inside the building, as it was in the 2015-16 school year.

Ms. Stevens, a parent of an 8th grade student, asked Mr. Campbell if he was sure the students were going to be safe. Ms. Stevens said Mr. Campbell had not done what he promised for students in regards to installing netting on the roof. Ms. Stevens said she is concerned for the safety and wellbeing of her son.

Mr. Campbell was again asked by a parent why the students were outside with only one staff member, to which he replied that he could not comment on personnel issues.

Ms. Priscilla Vega asserted that students learn better in safe environments, and that the work being done to move kids to mastery in testing will not be effective unless the school creates an environment that allows students to thrive. "If you want better state ELA scores, provide the foundation—safety."

Several other parents called for a meeting with the school and the parents, so that they can hear everything that is being done and participate in troubleshooting safety concerns going forward.

Janet Caraballo, a parent in attendance, stated that she called the 40th precinct to ask for extra security. She urged other parents to do the same and said that the increased police presence will depend on the outreach done by families directly. Mr. Campbell agreed and suggested that parents call the Community Officer at the 40th precinct, as well as calling 311, to request fixed presence of police on the corner of Westchester Avenue and 156th Street.

Academic Programming

Mr. Campbell reported that the school is working with consultants Jim Ford and Roblin Webb, and the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to implement changes in the school. Advisory has been changed to ELA Test Prep, for 45 minutes four times per week, and Math instructional time has increased so that students are receiving twice the amount of math learning time each week under the new schedule that took effect January 22nd, with more work being done around math fluency.

Auriel Watson reported that the first two weeks of ELA Test Prep has led to growth for many students. The school is using a program called NEWSELA. Parents will start receiving individual updates on their students in the coming weeks.

Kelly Power reported on the increased math instruction, including the 30 minutes of Computer Science class that is now devoted to computer programs that improve math fluency. She said that students are enjoying the tool. Students are also using Khan Academy to reinforce what they are learning in the classroom during their additional period of math instruction each week. Focus area testing begins in the math classrooms next week. Ms. Powers said that she hopes to see increased parental engagement in math for students who have access to a tablet or computer at home; for students without that access, SBCEA will be circulating worksheets for students to complete at home.

Parents will receive invitations to workshops to learn about the work that is happening in test prep classes, and strategies they can use to foster their children's progress at home. The previous test prep parent meetings had over 175 parents in attendance.

Discussion on Expectations for Reporting to the Board

The Board requested that this item be moved to Executive Session. Mr. Campbell briefly updated parents in attendance, explaining that this is related to SBCEA's Corrective Action Plan, mandated by NYSED, and the work surrounding protocols for communicating with and updating Board Members.

Update on Dispute with Towne Partners

Little has changed since the meeting on January 11th, but there should be an offer in to Towne Partners next week to settle the dispute.

DOE's Rental Assistance

Mr. Russell, Ms. Cohen, Ms. Biberman, Mr. Campbell, and the attorney met in recent weeks, and a letter has been filed with the Department of Education, detailing that the DOE should be covering rental assistance as the law dictates. The fixed rent at SBECA covers both utilities and custodial services.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Executive Session

The Board voted to go into Executive Session, in advance of the votes on three resolutions on the agenda, which would be made in the public portion of the meeting following Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session.

Resolution to Approve Corrective Action Plan and Submit to NYSED

Ric Campbell stated that SBECA has been asked to develop a Corrective Action Plan (CAP) due to poor academic performance as per State examination results over the past two school years. The Board reviewed the CAP that Mr. Campbell had drafted, with input from the Board, Jim Ford and Roblin Webb. Ms. Franklin made a motion to approve the following resolution:

Be it resolved that SBECA submit to the NYSED Charter School Office a Corrective Action Plan in response to the Letter of Deficiency submitted to SBEACACS by NYSED on December 21, 2017. The Corrective Action Plan responds to 6 identified deficiencies related to student performance on the NYS ELA and MATH exams.

Ms. Schneider seconded the motion, and the Board voted unanimously to approve.

Resolution to Approve Charter Revision Request and Submit to NYSED

Mr. Campbell reported on the proposed Charter Revision Requests: one material request that will change the organizational chart by adding new layers of leadership to include two co-principals and two deans and one non-material request that will impact the school calendar. Mr. Serigne Gningue made the following motion:

Be it resolved that SBECA submit to the NYSED Charter School Office a request for revision to its charter in the matter of changes to its organizational structure, which is prompted by the need to turnaround the quality of instruction and school culture to achieve the school's mission. These changes to organizational structure constitute a material revision and the Board hereby resolves to submit all appropriate and required documentation for review and approval by the NYSED Charter School Office.

Ms. Chemla seconded the motion, and the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Mr. Serigne Gningue made the following motion:

Be it resolved that SBECA submit to the NYSED Charter School Office a request for revision to its charter in the matter of changes to its school calendar and daily class schedule. These changes constitute a non-material change and are requested to address school change for the purposes of improving school performance and the Board hereby resolves to submit all appropriate and required documentation for review and approval by the NYSED Charter School Office.

Ms. Chemla seconded the motion, and the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution.

Executive Session

The Board voted to return to Executive Session.

Adjournment

The Board came out of Executive Session and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 1st.