

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 8, 2018  
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 1, 2018
- IV. Response to Public Comment on February 1, 2018
- V. NYSED Mid-Term Site Visit
- VI. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Student Safety
  - B. Interim Assessment Results
  - C. NSF Grant Conference
  - D. Recruitment of Students for 2018-2019 School Year
  - E. Recruitment of Faculty for 2018-2019 School Year
  - F. DOE Rental Assistance Update
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Executive Session
- IX. Next Meeting – April 5, 2018
- X. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta  
8 de marzo de 2018  
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**AGENDA**

- I. Inicio de Sesión
- II. Comentarios Públicos
- III. Aprobación de Minutas de la Reunión de la Junta del 1 de febrero de 2018
- IV. Respuestas a Comentarios Públicos del 1 de febrero de 2018
- V. Visita del Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York
- VI. Informe del Director Ejecutivo
  - A. Seguridad de Estudiantes
  - B. Resultados de las evaluaciones interinas
  - C. Conferencia de la Fundación Nacional de Ciencias (NSF)
  - D. Reclutamiento de estudiantes para el año escolar 2018-2019
  - E. Reclutamiento de profesores para el año escolar 2018-2019
  - F. Asistencia del Departamento de Educación (DOE) para pagos de renta
- VII. Asuntos Nuevos
- VIII. Sesión Ejecutiva
- IX. Próxima Reunión – 5 de abril de 2018
- X. Cierre de Sesión



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
801 E 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**Board of Trustees Present:** Nancy Biberman, Jodi Schneider, Serigne Gningue, Davon Russell

**Board of Trustees Absent:** Valerie Capers, Lori Chemla, Andrea Cohen, Felicia Franklin

**SBECA Staff Present:** Ric Campbell, Auriel Watson, Bruce Stansbury, Catherine Toussaint, Andre Harris, Sophia Jones

**WHEDco Staff Present:** Katie Aylwin, Meredith Leverich

**Members of the Public Present:** 1

**Call to Order**

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:20 pm.

**Public Comment**

Cassandra Hair, who has two children enrolled at SBECA, said that she appreciated the school administration's efforts to increase school security and ensure the safety of the students. She said that the steps that have been taken since the last meeting are greatly appreciated.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Russell said that, since a quorum was not present, the approval of the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes would be postponed until the April Board meeting.

**Response to Public Comment**

Mr. Russell thanked Ms. Hair for attending and for her participation. He said that the Board and administration rely on feedback from parents, and have made an effort to act on safety concerns that were expressed at the last meeting. He said that Ric Campbell would offer an update on student safety during his report.

Mr. Russell also responded to requests made by parents at the February 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to form a Parent Association (PA) or Parent Teacher Association (PTA). He said that he appreciates the parents' willingness to get involved and support students in this way, and that parental involvement is key. He said that forming a PA or PTA at this point in the school year is not feasible, given the Department of

Education's regulations around the operations of these types of groups. A PA or PTA is required to apply for its own 501c3 status as a nonprofit, open up a bank account, and elect custodians of the finances. There are deadlines at the beginning of the school year for these activities, so the school is unable to form a PA or PTA at this time. He said that this idea could be explored for the next school year and actions taken over the summer to move it forward, if the school is ready at that time.

Mr. Campbell said that Angelique Angrum, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade advisor, is spearheading plans for an 8<sup>th</sup> grade graduation. He said that she would be engaging parents to participate in the planning process. He said that there would also be a class trip, a prom, and a yearbook for the graduating class.

### **NYSED Visit on March 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

Mr. Campbell reported that NYSED will be conducting its Mid-Term Site Visit on March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. During that time, representatives will conduct a parent focus group, as well as a Board focus group. Mr. Campbell said that administrators would be reaching out to parents to request their participation in the process shortly.

### **Executive Director's Report**

#### School Safety

Mr. Campbell reported that, in response to the incidents reported at the February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 Board meeting, SBECA administrators have successfully engaged the NYPD to increase police presence during dismissal times at 3:15 and 5:15 pm. There is now an open line of communication. The NYPD has been clear about times when they are unable to be on-site, so that the faculty members can take a more active role in monitoring dismissal. Five arrests have been made to date as a result of the assaults in January.

One SBECA student will undergo a safety transfer to another school to complete the remainder of the school year. Mr. Campbell said that, although it is unfortunate and difficult for that student, all parties agreed that this step will reduce the risks to his safety and the safety of other SBECA students.

#### Interim Assessment Results

Mr. Campbell reported that the third Interim Assessment had been administered over the past two weeks under State examination conditions.

Auriel Watson presented on the ELA results. She said that an action plan had been implemented beginning on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, so three to four weeks of aggressive instruction had taken place in advance of the final interim assessments. She said that students generally did better on the short response sections, scoring 3 and 4, but still struggled with the multiple choice sections. She said that the sixth and eighth grade students experienced some growth, but that the seventh grade scores were fairly stagnant, which requires further investigation.

Mr. Russell inquired about the expectations for growth and what the original goal had been between the assessments. Mr. Campbell said that the sixth grade growth represent what the instructional team is

hoping for. For example, in Interim Assessment 2, 68% of students were scoring below 50%; in Interim Assessment 3, 40% of students scored in that category. Mr. Russell asked why more students were not moving from scoring a high level 2 to a 3. Ms. Watson said that there had only been a few weeks between assessments, so it was difficult to show much growth in such a short time-frame. She said that there are additional efforts to prepare students as they move toward the State examinations in April and May. She said that there is an effort to continue building the reading culture in the school, including engaging parents in workshops to help them encourage reading at home. Students will also be grouped according to their assessment scores, so that teachers can target instruction. Exit slips are also being submitted daily. Mr. Russell said that the faculty should have a clear sense of what the expectations are going into the exam, so that the Board can keep NYSED apprised.

Mr. Campbell said that the Mathematics data had not yet been completed and assessed, but that he would circulate those results to the Board via email. The results could be discussed with Kelly Powers at the April meeting, should the Board have any questions.

#### National Science Foundation Grant Conference

Mr. Campbell reminded the Board that SBECA had applied for two grants to the National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2017, in partnership with Fordham University and Lehman College. The school was not awarded the grants; however, SBECA was invited to reapply this year and was invited to participate in a conference in Chicago to receive technical assistance for the application. He said that he and Ms. Powers attended the conference on March 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, and they think that the school has a strong chance of being awarded the grant this year. The grant proposal is due on May 9<sup>th</sup>.

#### Lehman College Partnership

Serigne Gningue said that the Dean of Education at Lehman College is working with SBECA to formalize an MOU that would place 15 – 20 graduate students of Education at SBECA for five hours per week for ten weeks. This partnership would bring into fruition an iteration of a higher education partnership that was originally designed in partnership with the Bard MAT Program. Mr. Gningue said that these placements would likely begin in September 2018.

#### Recruitment of Students for 2018 – 2019 School Year

Catherine Toussaint reported that the school has collected approximately 500 applications to date for the 2018 – 2019 school year. Most applications are for the incoming sixth grade class, which will have approximately 115 seats. There will also be some openings in the eighth grade class, but the seventh grade class will most likely be full.

#### Faculty Recruitment for 2018 – 2019 School Year

Mr. Campbell reported that faculty recruitment for the 2018 – 2019 school year is in progress. Emily Packet is once again spearheading recruitment efforts, including attending job fairs. Mr. Russell asked if these efforts warranted additional support from Jim Ford and Roblin Webb from Ford Research & Solutions. Mr. Campbell said that they have offered advice, but that it would have had to have been implemented earlier to be effective.

Mr. Russell asked Mr. Campbell and Andre Harris if they thought that additional professional development might be helpful for the Deans, as they continue their efforts to build a school culture. Mr. Harris said that the help offered by Sundiata Salaam to date was very useful, and that additional support would be welcome. He said that he has already noticed shifts in school culture, based on the initial workshops they offered, including improved behavior management in classrooms. Mr. Campbell said that he would discuss this with Mr. Harris and Jason Adolphus, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade dean, and circle back with Mr. Ford shortly.

#### DOE Rental Assistance Update

Mr. Campbell said that the school's attorney sent a letter requesting that the NYC DOE provide rental assistance at the full rate defined by the lease agreement, per the school's understanding of the law. He said that the letter was effective and that the DOE has agreed to make the additional payments to cover the full amount of the lease, which will amount to approximately \$200,000 per year.

#### **New Business**

##### High School Offers

Mr. Campbell stated that high school offer letters have arrived. 100% of eighth grade student were matched with one of their top six choices; 92% were matched with their top three choices; and 65% were matched with their top choice.

#### **Next Meeting**

Mr. Russell and Mr. Campbell stated that it may make sense to postpone the April meeting, since it is currently scheduled for the week after Easter, which is a popular vacation time. Mr. Russell asked Meredith Leverich to be in touch with other Trustees to determine which date is best.

#### **Adjournment**

The Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>.