

**Board of Trustees Meeting
May 3, 2018
801 E. 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Meeting Minutes from April 12th, 2018
- III. School Leadership Update
- IV. Public Comment
- V. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Student Safety
 - B. Academic Programming Update
 - C. Student Enrollment for 2018-2019 School Year
- VI. Resolution to Approve Services Agreement
- VII. Budget Development Process
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Executive Session
- X. Next Meeting – June 7th, 2018
- XI. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta
3 de mayo de 2018
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

AGENDA

- I. Inicio de Sesión
- II. Aprobación de Minutas de la Reunión de la Junta del 12 de abril de 2018
- III. Liderazgo Escolar
- IV. Comentarios Públicos
- V. Informe del Director Ejecutivo
 - A. Seguridad de Estudiantes
 - B. Programación Académica
 - C. Matrícula de estudiantes para el año escolar 2018-2019
- VI. Resolución para aprobar el Acuerdo de Servicios
- VII. Proceso de Desarrollo de Presupuesto
- VIII. Asuntos Nuevos
- IX. Sesión Ejecutiva
- X. Próxima Reunión – 7 de junio de 2018
- XI. Cierre de Sesión



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, May 3, 2018
801 E 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

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

Board of Trustees Absent: Nancy Biberman, Valerie Capers

SBECA Staff Present: Ric Campbell, Kelly Powers, Auriel Watson, Ray Acosta, Jr., Maricruz Badia, Brandon Borst, Leola Brady Price, Tanaisa Brown, Rudy Diaz, Kathy Dudley, Vania Gulston, André Harris, Derek Hernandez, Sophia Jones, David Kent, Andrew Petagna, Alexandra Lopez Reitzes, Dulce Rico, Bruce Stansbury, Salma Tarik, Catherine Toussaint, Jen Unger

WHEDco Staff Present: Katie Aylwin, Meredith Leverich

Members of the Public Present: 2

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:15 pm.

Approval of Minutes

Andrea Cohen made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 12th, 2018 Board meeting, as proposed on May 3rd, 2018. Jodi Schneider seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

School Leadership Update

Ric Campbell announced that he would not be returning to his role as Executive Director of SBECA in the 2018 – 2019 school year and that his last day would be June 29th, 2018. He spoke about the school's vision, and detailed some of the achievements and challenges that the school has experienced in its first three years of operation. He thanked the faculty for their dedication to the school.

Public Comment

Tanya Dumeng, a parent, stated that she was saddened by the news of Mr. Campbell's departure. She said that it was unfair to judge student performance solely by standardized tests, which she said are biased and do not fully represent what children are learning.

Alexandra Lopez Reitzes, an art teacher, stated that she had presented on work happening in the Art department at the April 12th Board meeting, and wanted to reiterate that her presentation also represented the work of her co-teacher. She said that the school's Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) model facilitates collaboration that brings richness into SBECA's classrooms.

Kathy Dudley, a teacher, said that she thought it was unfair that the school is losing its leader, and that any disappointments that have arisen are due to departures in the school's original vision.

Maricruz Badia, the school's guidance counselor, said that she feels the school has a dynamic vision that departs from many traditional settings, including its decision to incorporate art into the core curriculum. She said that many of the school's great accomplishments are not accurately measured or recognized.

Vania Gulston, a teacher, described her career path and experience as an educator. She said that she is disappointed with the direction in which the school is moving, and fears that passion will not be recognized or valued moving forward. She added that, in her 13 years of teaching experience, she has never seen the energy around test preparation that she saw across the school this year.

Yeatie Morgan, an 8th grade Special Education (SPED) and Response to Intervention (RTI) teacher, stated that she was a student teacher at SBECA in 2016 – 2017, and had such a positive experience that she was eager to join the faculty full-time upon graduation. She was given the opportunity to return as a SPED teacher and has felt a sense of family at the school. She raised a concern that the transition process may jeopardize the progress that has been made, rather than building on the school's current foundation.

Kelly Powers, the Math and Computer Science Instructional Leader, thanked Mr. Campbell for his leadership and inspiration. She said that at the April 12th Board meeting, the Board stated that NYSED observed chaos and very little learning happening during the mid-term site visit at the end of March. She stated that the first day went very poorly, but that the second day was much better. She felt that NYSED's feedback, as reported by the Board, was unfair and did not acknowledge many good things happening in the classrooms, including the art classrooms, which were not prioritized on the visit. She asked the Board to reconsider their decision to change the leadership, and that a year's-worth of progress would be lost as a result of the process. She recommended that the Board continue with a consultant, rather than engaging with a Charter Management Organization.

Leola Brady Price, the Director of English Language Learners (ELL), thanked Mr. Campbell, as well as the other members of the leadership team – Ms. Powers, Auriel Watson, Andre Harris and Jason Adolphus – for their collaboration and strength.

David Kent, a 6th grade history teacher, said that teachers are often made out to be the enemy, but that SBECA does not have that atmosphere. He said that he hopes the new leadership will maintain openness toward teachers and give them the respect that they deserve. He added that the school should not abandon all of the current structures and initiatives during the transition.

Andre Harris, a dean, expressed gratitude to Mr. Campbell for supporting his professional development and seeing potential in him. He said that Mr. Campbell fostered growth for many other leaders at the school.

Mr. Russell thanked everyone for their comments. He stated that the Board would be convening parent meetings the week of May 14th to provide more information to parents.

Executive Director's Report

Student Safety

Mr. Campbell reported that there have been gang activities around the school and in the students' neighborhoods. These activities take place outside of school hours and outside of the building, so are beyond the school's jurisdiction. He stated that the school continues to reinforce the need for children to take proper and direct routes home.

Academic Programming Update

Mr. Campbell reported that the New York State ELA and Math examinations have been completed, and that he expects to see significant improvement in the scores when they are released in August.

He also said that some students are now preparing for Regents examinations, the New York State Eighth Grade Science Test and/or the New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSESLAT).

Mr. Campbell announced that Advisory periods have been re-integrated into the daily schedule, now that test preparation is complete. During Advisory, students will be working on their end-of-year portfolios, which will be presented on June 26th and 27th. He invited Board members to attend the portfolio presentations.

Student Enrollment

Mr. Campbell said that 100% of sixth and seventh grade students have indicated that they plan to return for the 2018 – 2019 school year. He added that the school received over 500 applications for the incoming sixth grade class, which can accommodate 112 students.

Resolution to Approve Services Agreement

Mr. Russell stated that the Board had met in Executive Session to discuss a draft Services Agreement with a potential partner. He said that the details of the agreement had not yet been approved by the school's authorizer, NYSED, so he could not share many of the details in the document. He added that, if approved, the agreement would purchase services that would support the school's academic work and leadership team. Mr. Russell said that he would provide additional details to parents and faculty as to what the services entail at a future meeting, if the agreement is approved by the Board and then by NYSED.

Andrea Cohen made a motion to approve the Services Agreement, as presented to the Board on May 3rd, 2018, and submit it to NYSED for review and approval before executing the agreement. Felicia Franklin seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the document and submit it to NYSED.

Budget Development Process

Mr. Russell stated that the fiscal year ends on June 30th, 2018, and that the Board Finance Committee would convene in advance of the June 7th Board meeting to review the school's current financial position, as well as the 2018 – 2019 Budget.

New Business

There was no new business.

Executive Session

The Board voted to go into Executive Session.

Adjournment

The Board voted to come out of Executive Session. The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting. The next meeting will be held on June 7th, 2018.