

**Board of Trustees Meeting
September 13th, 2018
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Resolution to Approve Minutes from July 12th, 2018 Board Meeting
- IV. Resolution to End Engagement with BRICK
- V. Ford Research & Solutions: Review of Proposal & Resolution to Re-engage for the 2018 – 2019 School Year
- VI. NYSED Updates
 - A. Daily Schedule Revision
 - B. Organizational Chart Revision
 - C. Final Mid-term Site Visit Report
- VII. Principal's Report
 - A. Facilities Update
 - i. Completed Projects: Main Office Relocation, Leadership Spaces, Student Culture Center, Co-Lab and Library, Outdoor Mural and Seating
 - ii. Future Projects: Roof Update, Urban Garden Update
 - B. Hiring & Enrollment Updates
 - C. Academic Programming Update
 - i. Student Data: 2018 State Test Data, Baseline I-Ready Data, Predictions and Response to Data
 - ii. First-Week Highlights
 - iii. Back to School Night
- VIII. New Business
- IX. Next Meeting – October 4th, 2018
- X. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta
13 de septiembre 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 12 de julio de 2018
- IV. Resolución para Terminar el Acuerdo con BRICK
- V. Ford Research & Solutions: Revisión de la propuesta y resolución para reanudar la posible contratación para el año escolar 2018 – 2019
- VI. Informe de Progreso: Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York (NYSED)
 - A. Revisión del Itinerario Diario
 - B. Revisión del Organigrama
 - C. Informe Final de la Visita
- VII. Informe del Principal
 - A. Informe de Progreso: Planta Física
 - i. Proyectos completados: Relocalización de la oficina principal, espacios para liderazgo, Centro de Cultura Estudiantil, Co-Laboratorio y Biblioteca, mural exterior y asientos
 - ii. Proyectos futuros: Actualizaciones al techo y al huerto urbano
 - B. Contrataciones y Matrícula
 - C. Programación Académica
 - i. Datos Estudiantiles: Exámenes Estatales 2018, I-Ready, Predicciones y Respuestas a los Datos
 - ii. Resumen de la Primera Semana Escolar
 - iii. Noche de Regreso a la Escuela
- VIII. Asuntos Nuevos
- IX. Próxima Reunión – 4 de octubre de 2018
- X. Cierre de Sesión



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, September 13, 2018
801 E 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

Board of Trustees Present: Valerie Capers, Lori Chemla, Felicia Franklin, Davon Russell, Jodi Schneider

Board of Trustees Absent: Nancy Biberman, Andrea Cohen, Serigne Gningue

SBECA Staff Present: Maricruz Badia, Brian Blough, Leola Brady-Price, Toni Chavarria, Bryan Garcia, Melissa Gaspard, Anijeh Green, Josef Haas, Mahelia Mighty, Lucy Peralta, Dulce Rico, Mario R. Rodriguez, Bruce Stansbury, Catherine Toussaint, Jennifer Unger

WHEDco Staff Present: Katie Aylwin, Meredith Leverich

Members of the Public Present: 11

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:24 pm.

Introductions

The faculty and staff present introduced themselves to the Board of Trustees.

Public Comment

- Bryan Garcia, the Vice Principal of Humanities, said that students have shared with him that the school looks different visually and structurally from last year. Teachers have better systems in place that foster a better educational environment. Some of the eighth grade students have said to him that they feel safer with the additional structure.
- Joseph Haas, the Vice Principal of Math/STEM, said that he held a focus group of five eighth grade students to hear their perspective on the changes. He said their responses were overwhelmingly positive and that they said, "It looks like a school now." He said that, during his observations of teachers, he has seen that the kids are very talented and have the potential to succeed.
- Jennifer Unger, the Director of Student Services, said that this school year is a completely different experience than last year. She said that a few of the graduates from last year's eighth grade class visited and commented on how great it is. She said that students are engaged and excited to be at SBECA. They are consistently registering consequences to their actions, which speaks to the culture shift.

- Noemi Vidal, a parent of a seventh grade student, said that her daughter is really comfortable and happy. She said that the reduction in art is unfortunate, but that the additional structure and higher expectations are helping the kids do well. She also said that she received a text message reminding her about the Board meeting and said that was helpful.
- Maricruz Badia, the school guidance counselor, said that the working environment is distinctly different from the 2017 – 18 school year, and that she is happy with the leadership of Mr. Blough and the new team. Ms. Badia said that last year’s environment was chaotic, so removing those factors enables staff to more effectively identify students’ social-emotional needs. She also shared that the owner of a local bodega told her that the kids are behaving better in her store after school than they did last year, which she believes is a reflection of what is happening during the school day.

Approval of Minutes

Lori Chemla made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 12th, 2018 Board meeting, as proposed on September 13th, 2018. Felicia Franklin seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Resolution to End Engagement with BRICK

Mr. Russell stated that the Board had engaged BRICK in April 2018 to support the leadership transition, and to provide an Academic Model and Curricula, as well as Human Resources and Professional Development services. As part of their initial work, they identified Brian Blough as the potential school principal. The board then interviewed and chose to hire Mr. Blough. Given Mr. Blough’s professional experience working in turn-around schools in the Bronx and the expertise of the new leadership team, the Board and Mr. Blough have assessed that it is no longer necessary to have BRICK provide the curricula. Further, BRICK’s academic model and schedule created too great of a departure from the school’s charter and would require a material revision request and Board of Regents’ approval to implement. For these reasons, the Board has discussed and agreed that the ongoing engagement with BRICK is no longer viable. He added that the long-term agreement had never been signed, so the Board is able to end the engagement without any penalties, other than the costs of services already rendered.

Felicia Franklin made a motion to end the engagement with BRICK. Jodi Schneider seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to end the engagement.

Ford Research & Solutions: Review of Proposal and Resolution to Re-engage for the 2018 – 2019 School Year

Mr. Russell reported that, especially since the Board will not be receiving consulting services from BRICK, they have asked Jim Ford and Roblin Webb from Ford Research & Solutions (FRS) to continue providing support to the school during the 2018 – 2019 school year. He stated that FRS had conducted site visits, including classroom observations and interviews with faculty, during the 2017 – 2018 school year, which provided critical insights to the Board that informed the leadership transition plan. FRS has submitted a proposal to continue this work, including quarterly site visits, which falls within the previously budgeted amount for consulting services. Since the Board is not on-site day to day, FRS can report to the Board

about their ongoing assessment of how the school is functioning and provide recommendations, if needed, to address any challenges. The Board reviewed the FRS proposal. Ms. Chemla inquired about early termination if the Board was not satisfied with the performance of FRS. Mr. Russell said that the agreement would have a termination clause and that only services rendered would be billed.

Lori Chemla made a motion to approve the proposed work scope and to re-engage Ford Research and Solutions, Inc. for the 2018-19 school year, as outlined in the proposal presented on September 13th, 2018. Felicia Franklin seconded and the Board unanimously voted to engage FRS.

NYSED Updates

Mr. Blough stated that Nicole Henderson, the school's former liaison, has changed roles within NYSED, and that a new liaison, Barbara Moscinski, has been assigned to SBECA. Mr. Blough said that he is now in regular communication with Ms. Moscinski.

Daily Schedule Revision

Mr. Blough reported that he adapted a daily schedule from the school's original charter to ensure that all of the key design elements were included, while also meeting students' academic needs. This plan ensures that all students receive 72 minutes of each core subject (ELA, Math, Social Studies and Science) daily. He said that he has worked closely with SBECA's NYSED liaison to ensure that the schedule would not require a material change, and recently received approval to implement the proposed schedule.

Organizational Chart

Mr. Blough said that he is working closely with SBECA's NYSED liaison to ensure that an updated organizational chart is approved by NYSED as a non-material change, as well. He said he would report to the Board when this issue has been resolved.

Mid-Term Site Visit Report

Mr. Russell said that the Board received the official report from NYSED, summarizing the Mid-Term Site Visit that was conducted in February 2018. The report is consistent with the conversations that took place at that time. Mr. Blough said that the new leadership team has used this report to help with planning, so that the issues raised by NYSED are addressed.

Principal's Report

Facilities Update

Mr. Blough said that the school building has undergone physical changes over the summer to make spaces more conducive to teaching, learning and parent engagement.

- The school office has been re-located to be more accessible and inviting to parents upon their arrival.
- Mr. Blough's office has moved to a room with a glass door on the second floor, so that he can monitor day-to-day activities and be more accessible to students and faculty.

- The faculty cubicles in the previous office have been dismantled and repurposed for a few private offices and a research library, which has received over 10,000 donated books.
- Teachers now have more formal desks in their classrooms and can use other common spaces for collaborative planning.
- Tats Cru installed a mural along the school's entrance to energize the space.
- Future plans include having netting installed on the roof, so that kids can play basketball at recess, and to create a rooftop garden. Mr. Blough said that this expense has been accounted for in the budget.

Hiring & Enrollment

Mr. Blough said that 338 students are currently enrolled, which is slightly above the approved number of 326. During the first three weeks of school, there was 98.46% attendance.

Mr. Blough said that the school is fully staffed, but may add a specials teacher or engage a service provider to increase the elective offerings. There is room in the budget for this potential expense.

Academic Program

Student Data

Mr. Blough said that the school has received embargoed results from the State ELA and Math exams that were administered in the spring of 2018, which cannot be shared externally. The State has provided them to inform academic planning, but the final, public scores have not yet been released. The scores show a significant improvement over the 2017 results. The school's goal for the 2018 – 2019 school year will increase to proficiency rates in the low to mid 30s.

Mr. Blough shared preliminary baseline data with the Board using the iReady program. This testing will be administered three times throughout the year. He said that the faculty is eager to use data to inform instruction. This data has also been used to form Integrated Learning Time (ILT) cluster groups.

First Week of School

Mr. Blough said that the first weeks of the school year have gone well. Staff are collaborating with each other, parents seem happy, and students are enthused. A Back to School night is scheduled for Thursday, September 20th, during which parents will mimic their children's daily schedule and have an opportunity to meet the teachers.

New Business

Finance Committee

Meredith Leverich said that the Finance Committee should meet in late October to review the first quarter financials with the school's accountant, Digant Bahl from Accounting Solutions of NYC. Mr. Blough stated that he meets with Mr. Bahl weekly to ensure that the school's budget is appropriately monitored.

Mr. Russell added that he and Mr. Blough also have a weekly scheduled meeting to ensure regular and open communication between the school administration and the Board.

Bussing

Parents raised questions about bussing issues. Mr. Russell said that they should first raise the issues with the school staff to see if they can help. Mr. Blough said that he would provide his business card so that parents can reach out to him if they are unable to contact someone in the office for an immediate concern.

Executive Session

The Board voted to go into an Executive Session.

Adjournment

The Board came out of Executive Session and unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.