

**Board of Trustees Meeting
October 4th, 2018
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Resolution to Approve Minutes from September 13th, 2018 Board Meeting
- IV. NYSED Updates
 - A. Official 2018 Math & ELA State Exam Results
 - B. Organizational Chart Revision
- V. BRICK Payment
- VI. Ford Research & Solutions Update
- VII. Principal's Report
 - A. Facilities Update
 - B. Academic Programming Update
 - C. Family Engagement Activities
- VIII. Discussion on the Potential Lease of Adjacent Parking Lot
- IX. New Business
- X. Next Meeting – November 1st, 2018
- XI. Executive Session
- XII. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta
4 de octubre 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 13 de septiembre de 2018
- IV. Informe de Progreso: Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York (NYSED)
 - A. Resultados oficiales de las pruebas estatales del 2018 en ELA y matemáticas
 - B. Revisión del Organigrama
- V. Pago Pendiente a BRICK
- VI. Ford Research & Solutions
- VII. Informe del Principal
 - A. Informe de Progreso: Planta Física
 - B. Programación Académica
 - C. Actividades Familiares
- VIII. Discusión en torno al posible alquiler del lote de estacionamiento adyacente a la escuela
- IX. Asuntos Nuevos
- X. Próxima Reunión – 1 de noviembre de 2018
- XI. Sesión Ejecutiva
- XII. Cierre de Sesión



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, October 4, 2018
801 E 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

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

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

WHEDco Staff Present: Katie Aylwin, Meredith Leverich

Other: Jim Ford and Roblin Webb, Ford Research & Solutions

Members of the Public Present: 6

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

No members of the public requested to speak at this time.

Resolution to Approve Minutes

Lori Chemla made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 13th, 2018 Board meeting, as presented on October 4th, 2018. Jodi Schneider seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

NYSED Updates

Official 2018 Math & ELA State Exam Results

Brian Blough reported that the 2018 State ELA and Math Test results had been finalized and made public. 26% of students tested proficient in ELA and 17% tested proficient in Math. He said that the scores had increased from previous years, and will inform growth goals for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Organizational Chart

Mr. Blough reported that he has been in communication with SBECA's NYSED liaison to submit a non-material revision request to the school's organizational chart, which he hopes will be approved shortly.

BRICK Payment

Mr. Russell reported that, per the vote held last meeting, SBECA has formally ended its engagement with BRICK. He said that the school has received a final invoice from BRICK in the amount of approximately \$11,000 which covers work completed in July and that the Board was awaiting additional documentation to verify some of the costs.

Ford Research & Solutions Update

Jim Ford and Roblin Webb of Ford Research & Solutions reported on their site visits to the school on October 3rd and October 4th. They said that the current environment compared to the 2017 – 2018 school year is like “night and day.” They observed an atmosphere of professionalism, and said that the leadership and faculty are communicating more effectively and collaboratively than was the case during their 2017 – 2018 observations. There are now clear expectations of students and adults, and people are held accountable at every level. Ms. Webb said that some of the seventh and eighth grade students are pushing back against the changes, since they experienced a different atmosphere in the last school year, but the adults in the building are persistent in maintaining expectations, which are consistent across classrooms.

Mr. Ford and Ms. Webb said that the physical changes that have been made to the building, including moving the main office and the leadership team’s offices, have made the leadership more visible to the school community and have allowed parents to feel more engaged. The positive atmosphere of the classrooms and hallways also speaks to the culture that has developed, in which students are more respectful of the building. Mr. Ford and Ms. Webb reported that their conversations with teachers – including those returning and new to SBECA – indicated that the consensus among faculty is that the administration’s guiding principle for all decisions is “Is this good for the kids?” which has built a collegial, trusting community. Professional development has been well-received and there is consistent feedback on lesson plans and regular classroom observations.

Mr. Ford and Ms. Webb also presented opportunities for growth. They said that transitions between classes could still be improved, although there has been significant improvement from the previous year, and that additional work is needed to help the seventh and eighth grade students acclimate to the new expectations. They also warned against teacher burn-out, given the rigorous daily schedule which limits prep time and lunch breaks. They recommended hiring additional staff to provide support during lunch and recess times to relieve faculty of those responsibilities and ensure that teachers have sufficient prep time and breaks; they reported that the school leadership agreed with this recommendation and is pursuing this course of action.

Mr. Ford and Ms. Webb said that the changes they have observed thus far will strengthen the school’s renewal application.

Public Comment Part II

Mr. Russell invited parents who arrived late to participate in Public Comment.

Yenni Ruiz asked about the new dismissal time. Mr. Russell recommended that she speak directly to the school administration to discuss reasons for the updated daily schedule and explore which dismissal time might work best for her and her child.

Noemi Vidal thanked the school for having fewer days off and fewer half-days in the 2018 – 2019 school calendar.

Principal's Report

Facilities Update

Mr. Blough reported that the former administrative suite has been repurposed as a research library. He said that WHEDco provided volunteers to help sort and organize books that were collected over the summer, and that another volunteer day will be planned later in the fall to complete the library.

Academic Programming Update

Mr. Bough reported that the school's data system has been set up, which will streamline data analysis and use for teachers, administrators and families. He also said that the first round of interim assessments will be administered within the next month. He added that the school held a community "Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)" event on Friday, September 28th and that all members of the school community, including faculty and staff, read silently during that time.

Family Engagement Update

Mr. Blough reported that the first "curriculum night" is being planned for the end of October and will introduce parents to some of the math curriculum being taught at the school, which will help parents provide additional support to students at home.

Mr. Blough said that the Winter Festival will be held on December 20th and is being spearheaded by Mr. Reese, the school's music teacher. A bingo night will be held in November as another way to invite parents into the school community.

Discussion on the Potential Lease of Adjacent Parking Lot

Mr. Blough said that parking is a challenge for teachers who drive to work. Teachers often have to circle the neighborhood to find a spot, which leads to tardiness, and/or they have to move their cars mid-day, which creates disruptions and coverage issues. Mr. Blough said that the neighboring church has a vacant lot, which could be leased to provide parking for faculty. He said that the lot could create between 15 – 20 spots, accommodating all of the staff members who currently drive to work. He circulated a draft lease to the Board and said that the school could afford the cost.

Mr. Russell said that, should the school move forward, the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee should consider how the parking lot should be treated, since this might be perceived as a perk offered only to staff that drive. It may be the case that the school asks employees to pay some portion of the cost for parking to avoid any perceived inequity.

Andrea Cohen inquired if the lot could be leased to provide additional play space for students, rather than teacher parking. Mr. Blough said that the administration is making progress on securing netting for the roof, which would allow that space to be used for play, and that teacher parking is a pressing issue. Mr. Russell said that, since the roof work may require a significant financial investment and that it could not be done immediately, the Finance Committee should consider both possibilities for the adjacent lot at the Finance Committee meeting, scheduled on October 25th. He suggested that the issue be tabled until that time.

New Business

There was no new business.

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.