

**Board of Trustees Meeting  
March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
801 East 156th Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Public Comment
- III. Resolution to Approve Minutes from February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Board Meeting
- IV. Report on #WeAreSBECA Showcase & NYSED Visit on February 28<sup>th</sup>
- V. Report on Ford Research Solutions' Visit on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>
- VI. Principal's Report
  - A. Facilities Update
  - B. Academic Programming Update
  - C. Family Engagement Activities
- VII. New Business
- VIII. Next Meeting – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- IX. Adjournment

**Reunión de la Junta  
7 de marzo de 2019  
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 7 de febrero de 2019
- IV. Informe sobre la Actividad #WeAreSBECA y la Visita del Departamento de Educación del Estado de Nueva York (NYSED) del 28 de febrero
- V. Informe sobre la Visita de Ford Research Solutions el 11 y el 12 de febrero
- VI. Informe del Principal
  - A. Planta Física
  - B. Programación Académica
  - C. Actividades Familiares
- VII. Asuntos Nuevos
- VIII. Próxima Reunión – 4 de abril de 2019
- IX. Cierre de Sesión



**Board of Trustees Meeting  
Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
801 E 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Bronx, NY 10455**

**Board of Trustees Present:** Valerie Capers, Lori Chemla, Andrea Cohen, Serigne Gningue, Davon Russell, Jodi Schneider

**Board of Trustees Absent:** Nancy Biberman, Felicia Franklin

**SBECA Staff Present:** Brian Blough, Leola Brady-Price, Tanaisa Brown, Danielle Corbin, Melissa Gaspard, Anijeh Green, Josef Haas, Derek Hernandez, Stephanie Jarvois, Sophia Jones, Mahelia Mighty, Mario Rodolfo Rodriguez, Catherine Toussaint, Chris Williams

**WHEDco Staff Present:** Katie Aylwin, Meredith Leverich, Katie McCaskie, Doxene Roberts

**Members of the Public Present:** 7

**Call to Order**

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

**Public Comment**

Janet Caraballo, a parent of a seventh grade student, said that she thinks that the school assigns too much homework and that it is difficult for parents to find sufficient time to help their children with their work, especially for parents with multiple school-aged children. She said that SBECA's no homework policy drew her to the school and she suggested reverting back to that policy or reducing the amount of homework assigned.

**Resolution to Approve Minutes**

Andrea Cohen made a motion to adopt the minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting, as presented on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Jodi Schneider seconded, and the Board unanimously voted to adopt the minutes.

**Report on #WeAreSBECA Showcase & NYSED Visit on February 28<sup>th</sup>**

Brian Blough reported that the Open House event on February 28<sup>th</sup> was a success. The building looked great and student ambassadors did a wonderful job of representing the school. He said that attendees were surveyed and that the responses were overwhelmingly positive.

Mr. Blough said that, during the event, two representatives from NYSED attended the welcome presentation, co-observed classrooms with the Vice Principals, and held a meeting with the leadership

team. He said that the meeting seemed positive and that they did not request a follow-up visit this year. He added that they will supplement their site visit with a conference call with the Board of Trustees.

### **Report on Ford Research Solutions' Visit on February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

Leola Brady-Price reported that Roblin Webb and Sundiata Salaam were on-site to work with the School Culture Team to enhance the school's Restorative Justice Practices for disciplinary issues. This work aims to create more positive and less punitive ways to address behaviors. Ms. Brady-Price said that the school's detention policy will change in April, allowing students to rectify negative behaviors with positive behaviors, which result in adjusted consequences. She said that the team held a follow-up conference call with Mr. Salaam to think through next steps. She added that Ms. Webb met with other faculty members, as well, to provide coaching around academic rigor.

### **Principal's Report**

#### Facilities Update

Mr. Blough said that three bids have been received for the proposed work on the roof, which will make the space fully functional for physical education, sports and recess. He said that the preferred vendor is Shannon L. Gates, and that the company has provided references for the Board to check. He said that the hope is that the work can take place during spring break to avoid disrupting class time and to ensure that the eighth grade class has an opportunity to enjoy the space before they graduate. Lori Chemla said that she would make reference calls on the Board's behalf.

#### Academic Programming Update

Mr. Blough presented data from the second Interim Assessments, which were administered in January 2019. Proficiency on the second Interim Assessment in ELA was 21.8% for sixth grade, 14.9% for seventh grade, and 50% for eighth grade, for an overall school proficiency on the second Interim Assessment of 29%. Proficiency on the second Interim Assessment in Math was 3% in sixth grade, 16.5% in seventh grade, and 76.1% in eighth grade for an overall school proficiency on the second Interim Assessment of 32%. Mr. Blough explained that the eighth grade class is taking ninth grade algebra, and will take the Regents exam in June in lieu of the State Math assessment. He said that the State accepts a passing grade on the Regents as proof of proficiency.

The Board inquired about some of the lower rates of proficiency on the second Interim Assessments, including sixth grade math and seventh grade ELA, and asked about actions and strategies to address those deficiencies. Mr. Blough said that a third teacher has been added to the sixth grade Math team to facilitate even more targeted instruction in small groups. He also said that Impact Blocks are used to group students by proficiency level for small group instruction. He said that Saturday Academy is continuing to grow and that students are receiving extra help there, as well. Ms. Gaspard added that the classroom data demonstrates greater growth. Mr. Blough said that interim assessments are not always predictive, since they are administered before all standards have been fully taught.

Ms. Cohen asked that Mr. Blough provide more detailed data in the future, including proficiency rates for individual standards if possible, to give the Board a clearer picture of how students are progressing, if the interim assessment data is not sufficiently predictive. She added that it is critical for the Board to have a

very strong understanding of the data and student performance as the governing body that holds the charter. Mr. Blough said that the third interim assessment would be administered in March and would be more predictive, since most standards will have been covered by then. He said that he would present that data at the April 4<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and can include more detailed information.

#### **Family Engagement Activities**

Mr. Blough said that a group of parents and faculty are working on organizing the eighth grade graduation event, and that students are compiling a yearbook.

#### **New Business**

Mr. Russell apologized to parents who did not have access to translation services at this meeting, due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict for the usual translator. He said that English-Spanish translation would be available at future meetings, as it typically is.

#### **Next Meeting – April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Mr. Russell said that the next meeting would be held on Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

#### **Adjournment**

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.