



Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, July 9th, 2020
Video Conference via Zoom

SBECA Board Members Present: Lori Chemla, Andrea Cohen, Sabrina Hope King, Davon Russell, Jodi Schneider

SBECA Board Members Absent: Nancy Biberman, Valerie Capers, Felicia Franklin

SBECA Employees Present: Jason Adolphus, Brian Blough, Jennifer Cannella, Shirley Castro, Bryan Garcia, Melissa Gaspard, Joe Haas, Sophia Jones, Nina Krauss, Beatrice Tinio, Alysha Willis

WHEDco Staff Present: Meredith Leverich

Members of the Public Present: 0

Call to Order

Davon Russell called the meeting to order at 5:05 pm.

Public Comment

No attendees requested to participate in public comment.

Resolution to Approve Minutes from June 4th, 2020

Mr. Russell stated that, although a quorum was technically present, some Board members were unable to be on video, which is necessary to take Board action per Open Meetings Law. He said that the Board would wait until the next meeting to adopt the June 4th meeting minutes.

Update on Organizational Chart & Staffing

Mr. Russell reported that the Board met in Executive Session following the June 4th, 2020 public Board meeting, during which the Board adopted an amended organizational chart for the new fiscal year, pending NYSED's approval. The amended chart reflects the staffing plan that was included in the FY21 operating budget, which had been adopted during the public portion of the meeting. SBECA submitted the proposed organizational chart to NYSED and it has since been approved.

Board Strategic Planning

Mr. Russell reminded the Board and staff that, as part of the charter renewal application process, the Board committed to engaging in a strategic planning process, with the support of Ford Research & Solutions, Inc. He said that he has been in touch with Jim Ford to identify key areas for the strategic plan and to map out next steps. The Board and possibly some key leadership staff will convene for an initial planning session in late August or September, pending Board availability. The strategic plan timeframe would align with the new three year charter term, beginning July 1, 2020 and ending on June 30, 2023.

Principal's Report (See presentation deck for additional information)

End of Year Update

Mr. Blough reported that the school year ended on a positive note, despite the unfortunate circumstances of not being able to celebrate in person. The eighth grade students enjoyed a virtual graduation ceremony, filled with video messages, student speakers, and awards. The school also held a Juneteenth celebration, staff and student huddles to discuss social justice, and a Fortnite gaming tournament in June.

Internal assessments for Reading, Math, Social Studies and Science were also administered in the last weeks of school. Some results were discussed in greater detail later in the meeting.

Planning is underway for Summer Academy, Staff Orientation and Reopening.

Academic Programming / Remote Learning Plan

Vice Principals Joe Haas and Bryan Garcia reported on the Math and Reading i-Ready results, respectively.

According to iReady, 31 of 78 sixth graders (40%), 20 of 72 seventh graders (42%) and 19 of 51 eighth graders (37%) demonstrated proficiency in Math. Mr. Haas added that i-Ready is not as reliable a predictor for the eighth grade Algebra curriculum and that the Interim Assessment administered in March is more useful for predicting proficiency; at that time, 64% of students demonstrated proficiency and he said that he predicted that 80% of eighth grade students would have passed the Regents if it had not been canceled.

The i-Ready Reading assessments indicated that 23 of 79 sixth graders (29%), 32 of 80 seventh graders (40%), and 31 of 59 eighth graders (53%) demonstrated proficiency.

The Board noted and inquired about the total number of students who participated in these final assessments, given the overall enrollment and previous assessment participation. The leadership team said that it has been challenging to engage some families so late in the school year. The Board asked that additional efforts be made to ensure that all students participate so that the data can be more accurate and reliable.

Student Support Services

Beatrice Tinio reported that 55% of Students with Disabilities (SWDs) demonstrated growth in Math and Reading, based on the most recent i-Ready assessments.

Operations & Enrollment

Mr. Blough reported that 107 incoming sixth grade students have accepted seats for the 2020 – 2021 school year. SBECA needs three additional students to be fully enrolled and eight additional students to hit its over-enrollment target of 335, which will help the school avoid falling below the approved enrollment number. Staff members are working with the Charter Center and local elementary schools to fill the additional seats.

Family Engagement

Mr. Blough reported that family engagement is continuing over the summer. A summer newsletter has been distributed and workshops are ongoing. The website features a “For Families” tab that has a list of resources for families, which has been curated in partnership with the Social Work team. The school is also administering a family survey to assess the remote learning experience.



High School Admissions

Mr. Blough reported that the school guidance counselor, Maricruz Badia, is working with rising eighth graders on the high school selection process. She is also participating in DOE trainings that may offer insights into the ways in which the process will change as a result of COVID-19.

Facilities

Mr. Blough reported that he is meeting with a group of principals in a think tank to prepare for the fall, including the acquisition of PPE. The leadership team is preparing for full reopening, as well as a blended learning approach.

School Culture

Mr. Blough reported that the School Culture team is continuing to monitor student behavior online throughout the summer. He said that, of 58,000 recent online "activities," Bark only identified one issue, which was then promptly addressed. This low rate of incidents demonstrates that students have been engaging in appropriate and respectful ways during the remote learning experience.

Higher Education Partners

Mr. Blough reported that NYU, Fordham University, MCNY and Lehman College are all proposing student teachers for the fall semester.

Leadership Coaching

Mr. Blough reported that his work with Dr. Peter McFarlane continues, including the development of a three-year Comprehensive Education Plan and summer planning.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Blough reported that Summer Academy began on July 6th and will run through August 6th. The second installment of the Leadership Planning Retreat will take place on July 14th. And a Town Hall Orientation for incoming sixth grade students will be held on July 15th.

New Business

The Board shared that the book fundraiser, spearheaded by Jodi Schneider, has been successful, raising \$10,000 for books for SBECA students and pre-schoolers at WHEDco. The books, which are written by authors of color and feature characters of color, will be distributed to SBECA students the week of July 13th. The Board thanked Ms. Schneider and Melissa Gaspard for working together to coordinate this initiative.

Next Meeting

Thursday, August 6th, 2020 at 5:00 pm via Zoom

Executive Session

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss a confidential matter.

Adjournment

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