



**Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, August 6th, 2020
Video Conference via Zoom**

Attendees:

Board of Trustees Present: Valerie Capers, Andrea Cohen, Felicia Franklin, Sabrina King, Davon Russell, Jodi Schneider

Board of Trustees Absent: Nancy Biberman, Lori Chemla

SBECA Staff Present: Jason Adolphus, Mario Bernabel, Brian Blough, Jennifer Cannella, Melissa Gaspard, Joe Haas, Sophia Jones, Nina Krauss, Sam Lugo, Elaine Martinez, Dulce Rico, Natalia Ruiz-Corrales, Bruce Stansbury, Beatrice Tinio, Alysha Willis, Debbie Wong

Other Organizations' Staff Present: Digant Bahl, Accounting Solutions of New York; Meredith Leverich, WHEDco

Members of Public Present: 35

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

No members of the public asked to participate.

Resolution to Approve Minutes from June 4th, 2020 and July 9th, 2020

Mr. Russell said that, although there had been a quorum present at the last meeting, some Board members were unable to use video. To comply with Open Meeting Law to the greatest degree possible while meeting remotely, he suggested postponing the vote until this meeting so that voting could take place using video.

Andrea Cohen made a motion to approve the June 4th, 2020 and July 9th, 2020 meeting minutes as presented on August 6th, 2020. Felicia Franklin seconded and the Board unanimously voted to approve both documents.

Board Strategic Planning

Meredith Leverich said that she is helping to schedule a Strategic Planning Retreat with Board and Senior Staff. She would be in touch to find a date that worked for all Board members in September.

Principal's Report

Jason Adolphus began the presentation on Brian Blough's behalf, due to a family emergency.

Book Fair

Mr. Adolphus reported that SBECA Trustee, Jodi Schneider, spearheaded a fundraising effort to raise \$10,000 to purchase books for SBECA and WHEDco families. She curated a list of titles written by authors of color and featuring characters of color. The books have been distributed to 169 SBECA families during a two-day book fair on-site and through home deliveries, to ensure that SBECA students have books to read over the summer

and can remain engaged in learning. Ms. Schneider thanked Melissa Gaspard, Natalia Ruiz-Corrales, members of the Operations team, the School Culture and Safety Associates and Dean Anthony.

Summer Academy

Mr. Adolphus reported that Summer Academy offered an extension of the fourth quarter and provided additional instruction in all content areas to better prepare students for the upcoming school year and to build confidence. He said that 128 students were required to attend summer academy as a result of failing one or more core subject areas (16 in sixth grade, 63 in seventh grade and 49 in eighth grade). Attendance exceeded 90% for sixth and seventh grade students who were required to attend. Eighth grade attendance was 50%. An additional 45 students across all three grades were recommended to attend. Of those, 40% participated and increased their overall grade for the fourth quarter. Students who were required to attend Summer Academy but did not will be required to attend Saturday School in the fall.

Meeting Interruption

The Zoom meeting was hacked and stopped. A new meeting was scheduled and circulated as effectively as possible to stakeholders, including faculty and families.

Principal's Report Continued

i-Ready Data

Mr. Blough reported updated i-Ready data for Math and ELA, incorporating results from students who had completed the final assessments since the July meeting. For those who did not complete the assessment, SBECA's leadership team used their January results to measure overall growth as a conservative approach. Based on the students who completed the assessments, 39.74% of sixth graders and 41.67% of seventh graders demonstrated proficiency in Math. Eighth grade students are not included in this assessment as i-Ready is not aligned with the Regents Algebra curriculum. For those who took the ELA assessment, 29% of sixth graders, 40% of seventh graders, and 52% of eighth graders demonstrated proficiency. The eighth grade did not have a high completion rate, so this data is skewed. Mr. Russell asked that the school district data be included in the presentations, as well, to remind everyone how we measure against other schools in our immediate neighborhood.

Student Support Services

Beatrice Tinio, one of the Co-Directors for Student Support Services, reported that she and Elaine Martinez are working on per pupil billing. She said that the school anticipated 25% of the student body to be Students with Disabilities (SWDs) and 12% to be English Language Learners (ELLs) for the 2020 – 2021 school year, which is comparable to the make-up of the 2019 – 2020 student body. These predictions are based on ATS and the Special Ed Information System, but the numbers may fluctuate, especially for incoming sixth grade students, and will not be finalized until the beginning of the school year. Ms. Tinio added that SBECA will be able to bill for the services provided prior to the school shut down, even if the number of mandated minutes was not met during remote learning. Mr. Russell asked that the district numbers be included for comparison on these slides, as well.

Operations and Enrollment Update

Mr. Blough said that enrollment is in flux, possibly as a result of the anticipated elimination of bussing, which will impact where families feel comfortable sending their kids. He said that he hopes to have firm enrollment numbers next week.



Family Engagement

Natalia Ruiz-Corrales said that SBECA will be rolling out Parent Square, a platform that will facilitate more streamlined communication with families. Families completed surveys on their remote learning experience and continue to be critical to student success and engagement. SBECA is planning daily online family huddles to help build community. Workshops on Parent Square, other technology and protocols will be offered to ensure everyone is comfortable engaging. The weekly family newsletter will return in late August to inform families of important updates.

Facilities

Mr. Blough said that he has been preparing the building for smaller class sizes and assessing furniture and PPE needs. The building is cleaned regularly.

Upcoming

Faculty will return for an all-staff Zoom meeting on August 19th. Formal Professional Development officially starts on August 24th. Student orientation will take place between September 2nd and 4th.

Reopening Plan

Mr. Blough reported that SBECA's Reopening Plan was due to the State on July 31st. SBECA's plan incorporated feedback from other school leaders, Board members, faculty and families. It is publicly linked on the website and accessible to all families.

SBECA plans to use a scaled-back in-person hybrid model. Sixth grade students will be on-site twice per week (Mondays and Fridays), and seventh and eighth grade students will be on-site once per week (Tuesdays for seventh grade and Thursdays for eighth grade) to help build relationships that will support remote learning. The in-person times will prioritize social-emotional support, student support services, physical education, art, and social justice, which may be more difficult to offer remotely. In person classes will max out at eight students and one to two teachers per room to facilitate sufficient distancing. Students will not have to switch classes throughout the day. Outdoor spaces will be used whenever feasible.

Families are also able to opt for 100% remote if they have safety concerns about sending their students into the building. Everything done within the building will also be live-streamed and recorded and made available, to ensure that everyone has access to the same content. When remote learning is offered, instruction will be live and students are expected to tune in at the time of each of their classes. Families are able to adjust their decision as their comfort levels change.

September 2nd will be a full school Zoom meeting. September 3rd and 4th will be days when students can schedule a time to come into the school to have their laptop serviced or to pick up a new device, if needed. The first day of in-person school will start on September 8th, the day after Labor Day.

Felicia Franklin inquired about childcare challenges that the part-time on-site schedule may create for families. Mr. Blough said that 72% of families indicated that they wanted to send students to school at least part time, based on survey results. Sixth grade students may have childcare issues, but it might not be as great a concern for families of the older students. Mr. Russell stated that the DOE is formulating a plan to offer "Learning Bridges" to accommodate kids who are not in school on a particular day. WHEDco may be able to lend support, possibly in partnership with some of the buildings that neighbor the school if they have additional space available for WHEDco to provide programming.



New safety protocols will be in place including mask mandates, daily temperature checks, and the elimination of handshakes and other student contact. Students will have their own materials and will not have to share with their classmates. SBECA will continue to assess safety and public health recommendations and will make adjustments as needed. The school will be cleaned every night with an especially deep clean on Wednesdays.

Mr. Russell asked that the families commit to maintaining regular communication with the school as things continue to shift in these unprecedented times.

New Business

Finance Report

Digant Bahl from Accounting Solutions of New York reported that SBECA has closed out Fiscal Year 2020. The previous projections anticipated a \$41,000 surplus, which have now been adjusted to \$53,000. These projections include a \$100,000 grant from the CARES Act, which has not yet been received. These funds were legislated and should have been paid, but the Comptroller has paused payments. Mr. Bahl added that the projections for FY21 have also been adjusted recently, although per pupil revenue may change. FY21 projections include a separate \$150,000 grant from the CARES Act, which is now expected to be \$182,000.

P-EBT Cards

Mr. Russell asked SBECA's Family Engagement Coordinator, Ms. Ruiz-Corrales, if the school was aware of whether or not families had received their P-EBT cards valued at \$420 to compensate for the cost of meals that students would have otherwise received at school between March and June. Some parents shared that they have received their benefits, while others still have not. Mr. Blough said that he would investigate.

Next Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 3rd at 5:00 pm via Zoom.

Adjournment

The Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting.