

APPROVED



Brighter Choice Charter Schools

Minutes

Academic Committee Meeting

Date and Time

Thursday March 7, 2019 at 9:30 AM

Location

250 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206

Committee Members Present

M. Snyder, T. Hanmer, Z. Nelson

Committee Members Absent

None

Guests Present

K. Ford, K. Mclean, L. Licygiewicz, T. Stutsrim

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Snyder called a meeting of the Academic Policy Committee of Brighter Choice Charter Schools to order on Thursday Mar 7, 2019 at 9:12 AM.

C. Approve Minutes from the December 13, 2018 Academic Committee meeting

Minutes should be amended to reflect that they were submitted by Ms. Nelson. Ms. Snyder moved to approve with this change, Ms. Nelson seconded.
M. Snyder made a motion to approve minutes from the Academic Committee Meeting on 12-13-18 with indicated amendment. Academic Committee Meeting on 12-13-18.
Z. Nelson seconded the motion.
The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

II. Academic Policy

A. BCCSB Principal's report and school update

Boys' School, Ms. Mclean reporting:

Enrollment stable, lost 5 over last few weeks

Recruitment for next year

Challenge, always lose students when KIPP adds a grade

Good news for 5th graders—Green Tech adding 6th, incentive for boys to enroll at BCCS for k-5.

Attendance is stabilizing, responding to rewards system put in place by Ms. Mclean

Personnel challenges/changes

New third grade math teacher

Ms. Sherman still covering for second grade teacher who left

New SPED candidate in the pipeline

One TA left, has already been replaced

Social media

New Web site under construction

Presence on FB and Instagram positive

Marketing firm, Collective Efforts, providing valuable reports about hits on social media

Review of upcoming events, March a long, quiet month, dominated by test prep

5/28—professional development day, good day for trustee/staff party

B. BCCSG Principal's report and school update

Girls' School, Ms. Ford reporting:

Enrollment solid, lost 11 students, but this includes two pairs of three sisters and families moving to NYC and North Carolina

Ms. Ford (and Ms. Mclean) reported on their frustration at the slow pace with which requests for IEP evaluations for charter school students are handled (compared to district schools).

Ms. Ford showed a video of Christine Forbes' math classroom.

Ms. Ford showed how the North West Evaluation Association data for math can serve as a predictor for 4th and 5th grade performance on state tests. BCCS for Girls using Freckle, an online practice program for math.

Ms. Ford shared the SED report of a site visit last May by New York State Center for School Safety (NYSCFSS). The board briefly considered the recommendations, most of which are already in place. Consensus that the recommendation that the school hire a security guard not be adopted.

Personnel challenges

2nd grade teacher resigned, replaced by Intervention (Coach? Teacher?)

4th grade ELA teacher resigned, replaced by music teacher

Need new music teacher, new Behavior Interventionist

At the conclusion of Ms. Ford's report, there was a general discussion of teacher retention, teacher burn-out, the pressures of the long day on a mostly female staff with young families. Merit pay not as important to teachers as planning time within the school day. Ms. Mclean and Ms. Ford are working to creatively to provide more of this. Ms. Snyder and Ms. Nelson suggested that the board should try to raise money to provide more regularized merit pay, ideally on an endowed basis.

III. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

T. Hanmer made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Z. Nelson seconded the motion.

The committee **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Z. Nelson