

APPROVED



Butler Academy

Minutes

BA Board Meeting

Date and Time

Wednesday October 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Location

Butler Academy
710 S 5th St
Hartsville, SC

BA Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 16 · 5:30 – 7:30pm

Time zone: America/New_York

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/jhq-mehd-fcv>

Or dial: (US) +1 812-727-7615 PIN: 394 463 506#

Trustees Present

A. Morris, C. Robinson, E. Mobley, K. Flaherty, M. Bunnell, M. Stellingworth, S. Hill, S. Wilson

Trustees Absent

D. Buryj, E. Waters, H. Holett-Frierson

Guests Present

Chenethia Brown, J. Reyes, N. Taylor, R. Johnston, V. Reyes

I. Opening Items

A.

Record Attendance

B. Call the Meeting to Order

M. Bunnell called a meeting of the board of trustees of Butler Academy to order on Wednesday Oct 16, 2024 at 5:30 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

C. Robinson made a motion to approve the minutes from Board Meeting on 09-18-24.

M. Stellingworth seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** to approve the motion.

II. VP of Operations updates

A. Enrollment updates

Have increased enrollment since August from 95% to 97%.. Waitlist has gone down from 104-101 scholars, there are 13 open seats in the middle school.

Starting to look at data of why scholars withdrew and propose that V. Reyes go through data with the Scholar Experience committee. Have looked at nationwide data in Charter Schools and BA is ahead in enrollment compared to most charter schools. Will try look at local county data to compare.

III. President Updates

A. Introduction to new leadership team members

Introduced Ms. Chenethia Brown who is the new Middle School Dean. she has been an ELA teacher, a coordinator and an assistant principal at a middle school. She has a passion to connect personally to each scholar.

Introduced Rachel Johnston who is the Lower School Dean. Spent 18 y in Sumter School district from a reading interventionist and was an assistant principal before coming to BA. Is passionate about providing opportunities to scholars.

Introduced Nateisha Taylor the Provost the Chief Academic Officer. Is her 23rd year in academics. Graduated from Lamar HS. Shared her mission to be what her students need in order to thrive.

B. School Report card presentation 2023-2034 school year

Elementary school is 'Average'. Middle School report card is 'Good'.

The school report card is rated on academic achievement, student progress, preparing for success (science) and school climate. BA scored 'Average' across all realms for the elementary school.

For the middle school, rated 'Good' for academic achievement, 'Excellent' for school climate.

Looked at the progression from year to year of scholars that started at BA from 3rd grade and are still with us now and the trend shows improvement. Followed cohorts from year to year not just the overall grade.

Followed the same cohorts in math as well.

Compared the overall scores on academic achievement to other elementary schools in our district.

Reviewed academic achievement, student progress and school climate compared to other middle schools in the area.

Then compared data compared to the state.. Exceeded our state in math, reading, and climate.

Celebrated that BA achieved the state's 3rd grade 'does not meet goal'. 3rd grade reading achievement in the 40s for the first time. Class of 2030 has shown steady growth in reading. Celebrated that BA middle school is outperforming its local counterparts in academic achievement. BA is 4th out of 25 middle charter schools in SCPSCD and 6th out of 22 Elementary charter schools.

Areas of improvement include increasing math and reading fluency, teacher and student retention, to increase exemplaries and reduce 'does not meet' numbers. Lastly, the school wants to focus on growing the bottom 20%.

Plans for the next year include beginning math intervention, addressing and meeting the needs of high achievement scholars, a strong science department, strong additions to the teaching team, and faster/earlier growth in early childhood.

Discussed ways to increase family participation and engagement such as family math nights, literacy nights, family workshop series, constant communication from teachers.

IV. Governance Committee

A. Updates

Proposed a change to the by-laws to be brought forth and voted on at next meeting to amend that appointed board seats have a term of 3 years, while elected seats cycle every 2 years with the first year having even seats as a one year term, for 1 year then become 2 year terms, and odd seats be two year terms starting 2025.

Encouraged board members to keep future board members in mind for next year.

Reminder to forward board training certificates to M. Bunnell

V. Scholar Experience

A. Updates

Discussed strategic planning for committee continuity. Suggested updating goals of the committee not just for this year but for long term, to place said documents in the committee folder for continuity of knowledge for next board members.

VI. Finance

A. Review Financials

Will discuss at next meeting.

VII. Development/Facility

A. Updates

Plan to invite the VP of Development to the next committee meeting and invite to present updates on her goals and ongoing projects.

VIII. Closing Items

A. Adjourn Meeting

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
M. Bunnell