



# Bronx Charter School for the Arts

## Minutes

### Monthly Board Meeting

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#### Date and Time

Tuesday November 12, 2024 at 6:00 PM

#### Location

Zoom

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#### Trustees Present

Arlene Bascom (remote), Barbara H. Scott (remote), Charles Whites (remote), Dan Vislocky (remote), David Barnard (remote), Denise Brecher (remote), Eric Osorio (remote), Lori Biancamano (remote), Susan Geisenheimer (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

Evette Stair- Radlein, Zahreen Ghaznavi

#### Guests Present

Jasmin Abbatiello (remote), Jocelyn Gaston (parent) (remote), Kathy Ortiz (remote), Lydia Bremer (remote), Melanie Hok (remote)

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### I. Opening Items

#### A. Record Attendance

#### B. Call the Meeting to Order

Barbara H. Scott called a meeting of the board of trustees of Bronx Charter School for the Arts to order on Tuesday Nov 12, 2024 at 6:04 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

Arlene Bascom made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting - In Person on 10-08-24.

Susan Geisenheimer seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Executive Director Report**

### **A. Update**

Kathy Ortiz's review of the demographic data reveals a diverse student population. The gender distribution shows a slightly higher number of females compared to males. A significant portion of the students are classified as economically disadvantaged, and this figure may rise to between 89% and 90%.

In terms of attendance, the school successfully achieved a commendable 90% attendance rate for both September and October. However, the enrollment numbers indicate a slight shortfall, with a budgeted figure of 590 students, while the actual count stands at 578.

October Highlights were shared:

- Introduction of high school articulation counselor at the Middle school
- 18 students will complete the specialized H.S. exam in November.
- BAE hosted second annual clothing drive.
- The BAM Jazz Club started practice two days a week in preparation for Jazz on Longfellow
- The BAM Volleyball team reached the playoffs.
- We established a new Partnership with Jazz at Lincoln Center.

## **III. Program Report**

### **A. Update**

Mr. Eric Osorio discussed the success on NYS performance in ELA & Math over the last few years.

- Past performance concerns have improved significantly; outperforming state, city, borough, and district in ELA and Math.
- This will be the first year of full programming across the board.
- Regents exams for 8th grader will be administered to all in Biology and algebra.

#### **IV. Facilities & Real Estate**

##### **A. Update**

David Barnard provided an update on the current status of 950 Longfellow, the private rented facility for BAE. He emphasized the need to review the scope and role of the facilities & real state committee to ensure oversight and management. The primary focus areas include improvements to HVAC, roofing, plumbing, and lighting. Civic Builders has been engaged to assist with assessments and provide support gathering quotes for the necessary capital upgrades. The Capital reserve account funded by the school but held by the landlord, Civic Builders, may be used to help fund the capital improvements.

Next a meeting will be organized with the nominated members of the facilities and real estate committee to discuss these initiatives further.

#### **V. Finance Report**

##### **A. Update**

Financial Update by Melanie Hok:

- YTD actuals reflect a net income of approx. \$369k due to underspending in personnel costs but higher costs in instructional and classroom expenses.
- Full year projection assumes per pupil revenue shortfall of approx. 300k due to lower enrollment, but will be offset by federal grant funding.
- Higher costs in classroom, teacher PD, and other instructional expenses that are covered by ESSER 3 and Summer Boost 2024 grants.

#### **VI. Development & Communication**

##### **A. Update**

Jasmin Abbatiello provided an update regarding private contributions and communications efforts:

- The Development and Communications Committee met on November 6th. During the meeting, Susan G. volunteered to be the Secretary and Zahreen G. volunteered to be the Chair. These positions have yet to be formalized since all members were not present. Jasmin confirmed she would be reaching out to anyone who did not make the meeting to ensure everyone is okay with the

assigned roles moving forward. The committee requested the description of the committee be updated and Jasmin confirmed she would update the description and share for approval. The next meeting will be held on December 3rd.

- Jasmin discussed recent contributions and grant awards:

1. Disney Grant Award (The Lion King showkit and production rights)
2. \$37,500 for Mornings with Jazz (morningcare/received)
3. \$5,000 matching gift incentive for Giving Tuesday (received)
4. \$2,000 book fair sponsorship (pledged)
5. \$500 unrestricted (pledged)

- Jasmin will be promoting Giving Tuesday (two weeks in advance, falls on December 3rd) and year-end (following Giving Tuesday through December 31st) with all supporters.

## **VII. Upcoming Events**

### **A. Update**

#### **Upcoming Events**

- All month-Food Drive at BAE
- 11/13-Volleyball Playoff Game
- 11/13-Parent Association Meeting with Ms. Ortiz & Ms. Millie
- 11/16-High School Specialty Admission's Test
- 11/21-Parent/Teacher Conferences
- 11/27-11/29-Thanksgiving Break
- 12/10-Board Meeting
- 1/16-BAM Musical

## **VIII. Public Meeting Adjourn**

### **A. Adjourn Meeting**

Barbara Scott requested that board members stay for closed executive session.

### **B. Adjourn Meeting**

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara H. Scott

## **IX. Executive Session**

### **A. Executive Session Update**

Confidential discussion regarding personnel matters.

## **X. Closing Items**

### **A. Update**

Barbara Scott expressed her gratitude to everyone and reminded the team that the upcoming Board Meeting in December will be conducted via Zoom. Additionally, the January Board Meeting is scheduled to take place in person in the city, with Kathy and Barbara committed to providing further details.

Executive session ended at 7:13pm