



# Bronx Charter School for the Arts

## Minutes

### Board Retreat - Remote

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#### Date and Time

Saturday February 8, 2025 at 9:00 AM

#### Location

Bronx Charter School for the Arts ( Elementary Campus)  
950 Longfellow Ave, Bronx NY 10474

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Due to unforeseen circumstances, the board retreat was moved to an online platform (Zoom).

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#### Trustees Present

Arlene Bascom (remote), Barbara H. Scott (remote), Charles Whites (remote), David Barnard (remote), Denise Brecher (remote), Evette Stair- Radlein (remote), Lori Biancamano (remote), Susan Geisenheimer (remote), Zahreen Ghaznavi (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

Dan Vislocky, Eric Osorio

#### Guests Present

Kathy Ortiz (remote), Krisann Vega (remote), Loretta Cargill (remote), Lydia Bremer (remote), Melanie Hok (remote), Patricia Rooney (remote), Ryan McCabe (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 Saturday Feb 8, 2025 at 9:05 AM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

Lori Biancamano made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting - In Person on 01-14-25.

Arlene Bascom seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Finance Report**

### **A. Update**

Melanie Hok provided the financial update as of January 2025, noting that state funds continue to be below budget due to lower student enrollment totals, but is offset by federal grants received. Discussion ensued regarding mid year student attrition.

Melanie also shared that the Finance Committee is awaiting more information from financial advisory service firms to support with investment strategies. She also noted that there is no action needed from the board at the moment about the particular matter

## **III. Development and Communications**

### **A. Update**

Joseph Chiofalo provided the Development and Communications update. He shared an overview of the recently released winter edition school newsletter and also reviewed current fundraising totals received year-to-date and year-end projections. Joseph noted that the team is finalizing the NYC discretionary grant that is due later in February.

The school's advertising initiatives are now live, featuring bus advertisements and digital boards in the subway, presented in both English and Spanish to maximize visibility, and print ads with various publications. Joseph shared that the school's digital campaign has already demonstrated significant impact, resulting in increased website traffic and engagement, and noting that the final cut of our recruitment video is anticipated to be completed shortly. Joseph shared that the school continues to partner with Concerts for Compassion and Community Bots. Lastly, Joseph presented the school's informational fact sheet one pager for engagement and recruitment purposes.

### **B. Breakout session**

David Barnard shared more information about the informational fact sheet one pager, noting that it serves as a tool to highlight the school's demographics, achievements, and partnerships; reinforcing the narrative that the arts contribute to academic success. He

shared that the goal is to offer a valuable resource for the board and anyone seeking information about Bronx Arts.

Facilitated by Barbara Scott and David Barnard, participants of the meeting went into breakout rooms focused on engagement strategies for promoting Bronx Arts.

### **C. Break**

10 Minute Break

## **IV. Academic Report**

### **A. Update**

Academic mid-year progress reports were presented by school principals Krisann Vega and Ryan McCabe. Using assessment data from I-Ready Diagnostic, NWEA Map tests, F&P, and other internal assessments, Krisann and Ryan highlighted areas of growth and gaps. Action plans to address areas of needs were shared. Both principals also noted that they will continue to use the data to implement any additional instructional changes to support student growth towards proficiency.

## **V. Executive Director & Board Chair Planning**

### **A. Assess past goals**

Barbara Scott, Ryan McCabe, and Kathy Ortiz reviewed and discussed the last 3yr Strategic plan (2021) to evaluate goals met since then.

## **VI. Upcoming Events**

### **A. Update**

#### **February 14:**

- Roses Are Red Book Fair at BAE
- Dance Showcase at BAM

#### **February 17-21:**

- Mid-Winter Break

#### **March 11:**

- Board Meeting via Zoom

## **VII. 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 11:25 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Barbara H. Scott