



# Bronx Charter School for the Arts

## Minutes

### Monthly Board Meeting

---

#### Date and Time

Tuesday May 12, 2026 at 6:00 PM

#### Location

Zoom

---

#### Trustees Present

Arlene Bascom (remote), Barbara H. Scott (remote), Charles Whites (remote), David Barnard (remote), Eric Osorio (remote), Lori Biancamano (remote), Susan Geisenheimer (remote), Zahreen Ghaznavi (remote)

#### Trustees Absent

Denise Brecher, Evette Stair- Radlein

#### Ex Officio Members Present

Kathy Ortiz (remote)

#### Non Voting Members Present

Kathy Ortiz (remote)

#### Guests Present

Joseph Chiofalo (remote), Krisann Vega (remote), Loretta Cargill (remote), Lydia Bremer (remote), Marcia White (remote), Melanie Hok (remote), Patricia Rooney (remote), Ryan McCabe (remote)

---

## **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 May 12, 2026 at 6:02 PM.

### **C. Approve Minutes**

Susan Geisenheimer made a motion to approve the minutes from Monthly Board Meeting on 04-14-26.

Arlene Bascom seconded the motion.

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

## **II. Executive Director Report**

### **A. Update**

Kathy Ortiz introduced Marcia White, HS Coordinator, who discussed the school's ongoing efforts to strengthen high school placement support for middle school students and their families.

### **B. Update**

Marcia White provided an overview of the 2026 high school placement results and the school's evolving placement strategy. She reported that 61 of 70 eighth-grade students who auditioned or submitted portfolios received offers to specialized arts high schools. Students also secured placements in selective public, early college, and career pathway programs, including Bronx Science Discovery, Bard Early College, LaGuardia High School, and Celia Cruz Bronx High School of Music.

Ryan McCabe emphasized the importance of individualized support throughout the admissions process and outlined plans to further strengthen the placement pipeline through earlier engagement with students and families, beginning in the elementary grades.

Kathy Ortiz also shared an update on the development of the Bronx Arts Alumni Association. Initial planning efforts are underway to expand alumni engagement, foster meaningful connections among graduates, and strengthen ties to the school community.

## **III. Facilities & Real Estate**

### **A. Update**

Kathy Ortiz provided an update on ongoing discussions with Civic Builders regarding the long-term facilities strategy for 950 Longfellow Avenue. Conversations have focused on options to enhance the school's long-term occupancy and stability, including revisiting the purchase option and extending the lease terms.

The Board also discussed a potential expansion opportunity involving a nearby property. Preliminary site visits have been conducted, and the school continues to evaluate future space needs.

Summer capital improvement projects at 950 Longfellow remain on schedule for completion prior to the start of the 2026–2027 school year.

#### IV. Finance Report

##### A. Update

Melanie Hok presented the proposed FY27 budget for the Board's review and consideration.

The proposed budget totals approximately \$14.9 million and reflects a balanced financial plan designed to further support the school's mission and arts-focused programming. Key budget assumptions, staffing updates, and major expense categories were reviewed.

##### B. Board Action

Arlene Bascom made a motion to approve the proposed FY27 budget substantially as presented, subject to any pending revisions, updates, or non-material modifications finalized by school's leadership and management consistent with Board guidance.

Charles Whites seconded the motion.

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

#### V. Development & Communications Report

##### A. Update

Joseph Chiofalo presented his final *Development & Comms Committee* report, highlighting progress in donor engagement and fundraising efforts during the fiscal year. He reported on the successful re-engagement of lapsed donors, the cultivation of new supporters, and increased social media engagement.

He expressed his appreciation to the Board and school leadership for their partnership and support. Board members, in turn, thanked him for his commitment and contributions to the school.

#### VI. Upcoming Events

##### A.

## **Update**

Kathy Ortiz shared upcoming school events, including:

- May 20, 2026 – Jazz on Longfellow
- June 4, 2026 – BAE Musical
- June 9, 2026 – Board of Trustees Meeting
- June 15, 2026 – BAE Graduation Ceremonies
- June 16, 2026 – BAM Graduation Ceremony
- June 18, 2026 – Last Day of School
- June 29, 2026 – Summer Boost Begins

## **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 6:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lori Biancamano