



Bronx Charter School for the Arts

Minutes

Monthly Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday August 11, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Location

Zoom

Trustees Present

Barbara H. Scott (remote), Charles Whites (remote), David Barnard (remote), Eric Osorio (remote), Lori Biancamano (remote)

Trustees Absent

Arlene Bascom, Denise Brecher, Evette Stair- Radlein, Susan Geisenheimer, Zahreen Ghaznavi

Ex Officio Members Present

Kathy Ortiz (remote)

Non Voting Members Present

Kathy Ortiz (remote)

Guests Present

Melanie Hok (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 Aug 11, 2026 at 6:07 PM.

C. Approve Minutes

Due to the lack of quorum, approval of the July Board meeting minutes was deferred to the next Board meeting.

II. Board Chair Report

A. Update.

Further discussion regarding the restructuring of the Board committees was led by Ms. Barbara Scott. She noted that the proposed schedule would consolidate the committees to four committees, with quarterly meetings intended to improve efficiency and reduce the time commitment for Board members. A survey will be distributed to Board members to determine the preferred meeting time for each of the identified quarterly meeting dates.

III. Nominating Committee

A. Update

Due to the lack of quorum, the Nominating Committee's item regarding the renewal of upcoming Board member terms was deferred to the next Board meeting, at which a motion will be presented for consideration.

IV. Executive Director Report

A. Update.

Ms. Kathy Ortiz provided an update on the preliminary 2026 ELA and Math state test results. She reported that ELA scores declined significantly statewide. Despite the statewide decline, Bronx Arts maintained consistent performance and exceeded both Bronx and district results by 13 percentage points. Ms. Ortiz noted that the principals will present a more detailed analysis of the results at the September Board meeting as the school continues to examine the data and identify factors contributing to the outcomes. She added that the school had anticipated stronger results based on internal assessment data collected throughout the school year.

Regarding student enrollment, Ms. Ortiz shared that the school is currently fully enrolled for the upcoming school year and credited the Operations enrollment team, led by Ms. Ocasio, for their efforts.

Ms. Ortiz also provided an update on staffing vacancies, noting that only a limited number of positions remain open at each campus. Ms. Ortiz further reported that the school is in the final stages of hiring the Director of Development. Zahreen Ghaznavi and members of the Development Committee are scheduled to meet with the final candidate later in the week, with the goal of reaching a hiring decision by Friday.

V. Facilities & Real Estate

A. Update

This agenda item was not discussed.

VI. Finance Report

A. Update

This agenda item was not discussed.

VII. Upcoming Events

A. Update

Upcoming events include Launch Day on August 26th at the middle school and Board members are welcome to attend. Operations and Leadership retreats are also scheduled for later in August and early September. The next Board Meeting is currently scheduled for September 8, which coincides with the first day of school. Ms. Ortiz noted that the meeting date may need to be adjusted and that the Board will be notified should a change be necessary.

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 6:38 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lori Biancamano