

Boston Day and Evening Academy  
Board of Trustees Retreat Minutes  
Tuesday, November 10, 2020

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**Attendance:** Alison Hramiec, Cris Rothfuss, Jennie Hallisey, Evelyn Zayas, Maddrey Goode, Spencer Blasdale, Sonya Page, Lauren Barry, David Jones, Brandy Allen, Toni Elka

**Others in Attendance:** Janet Platt, Rawchayl Sahadeo, Margaret Samp

**Clerk:** Claire Gracia

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### **Call to Order**

Cris called to order at 5:32 pm.

### **Welcome and Review Agenda - Cris**

Cris welcomes the board. The BoT reviewed the minutes from the October 13 meeting. Cris made a motion to accept the Oct 13 meeting notes; 2nd by Evelyn. All Members approved the minutes.

### **Staff Perspective on start of school year - Hallisey, Jones, Platt, Sahadeo**

Staff shared their instructional challenges and successes of the year thus far. Staff from both the pilot and flagship shared with the group, followed by questions from members of the board. Challenges were centered around video camera issues, building trust virtually, closure of Learning Lab, attendance, access to technology, and student anxiety. This was followed by success, which included maintaining human connections, online tutoring, being responsive to students, engaging students and discussing current events.

LT shared the goal of giving staff more curriculum planning time and efforts to distribute Comcast vouchers to improve internet accessibility for students. Teachers shared they want to find a way to engage with students outside the building through experiential learning.

### **BDEA Accountability, Enrollment and Attendance Update - Lauren, Alison**

Lauren and Alison shared updates regarding DESE state assessments that were cancelled last March and its effect on the data. Due to the lack of assessment in March, there is no new accountability data for this year. They reminded the Board when BDEA is compared to other alternative schools, the commissioners voted to increase enrollment. This fall, general student enrollment is down, but BDEA is enrolling students bimonthly. Special Ed and ELL is overenrolled, requiring a different set of resources to support them.

Compared to other schools, the low suspension data is favorable, while the low graduation and attendance rates are less favorable. They shared BDEA's accountability focus for the 2020-21 school year which included increased participation in ACCESS testing, a partnership with MPDC's HiSet Program (which will impact our dropout data), and identifying graduation cohorts in Connects (which could impact our graduation data).

While discussing student engagement, they shared the discrepancy between building attendance, classroom attendance and DESE attendance. BDEA has decided not to discharge students as often because of dual pandemic. BDEA 2.0 attendance is dropping below the Flagship, which is not on trend and reflects the effect of COVID-19 on that population.

Moving forward, BDEA is planning to create a tutoring program, give teachers more time to develop classes, develop a consistent and accurate way to report attendance and schedule students.

### **Subcommittee Share-Out - Maddrey, Evelyn, Cris**

Subcommittees shared their progress and updates from their individual group meetings.

- COVID Rapid Response Subcommittee: focusing on gathering information, sharing, figuring out the needs and wants of the school as related to COVID. The subcommittee plans to provide BoT support, create care packages for team members, support tutoring programs and other solutions. They plan to circle back to the Board next meeting with a specific proposal.
- Finance Subcommittee: creating an investment strategy and working on the parameters of the Foundation Board.
- Facilities Subcommittee: drafting an action plan emphasizing a holistic approach of community support and need for a new facility. The subcommittee plans to identify key stakeholders who can advocate to the Mayor, create a vision statement to share with stakeholders and be proactive and identify spaces in BPS that have potential renovation.

### **Updates/Reminders- Alison**

Alison updated the Board on fundraising efforts for the Turkey Drive and reminded the Board on upcoming school, student and family events.

### **New Business Adjourn - Alison**

Cris moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 pm.

Seconded by Toni Elka.

Voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Gracia