

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes
Tuesday July 12, 2022

Attendance: Spencer Blasdale, Maddrey Goode, Jennie Hallisey, Salesia Hughes-Hibbert, Perry Hull, Alison Hramiec, Jummane Kendrick, Lisa Laguerre, Sonya Page, Cris Rothfuss, Norma Suarez Quiles

Others in Attendance: Jill Kantrowitz, Margaret Wood, Adrienne Level, Rawchayl Sahadeo

Clerk: Jill Kantrowitz

Location: Zoom

Call to Order:

Board Chair C. Rothfuss called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. There was a clarification of who closed the June meeting and it was agreed that the minutes accurately captured this information. C. Rothfuss called for a vote of approval, M. Goode seconded the motion, there were no opposing votes and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Facilities Update:

Hramiec introduced Margaret Minor Wood. M. Minor Wood is working with BDEA to support preliminary planning and cost estimation for BDEA's new facility search process. M. Minor Wood provided an overview of her credentials and then walked the board through her work to date and future plan.

- Context: Green New Deal; new Superintendent Mary Skipper.
- Goal: The intention of M. Minor Wood's work with BDEA is to support us as we make a case for facility needs.
- Output: BDEA will produce a brief report by the end of summer to give to BPS. The report will include an introduction to BDEA, a focus on our location, pros/cons of our current location vs. move, challenges of our current building and a highlight of the program needs that are not being met. We will also include two attachments: BuildBPS Report on the Wheatley Building and a document comparing current programming (and associated space needs) to aspirational design and space needs. M. Minor Wood explained that this last document is created through a program that associates specific square footage with types of rooms within a school.
- M. Minor Wood explained that she carried out two brainstorming sessions with staff in May to gather their input on program needs/wish list for a state of the art new school facility.
- M. Minor Woods reviewed three current options for a new facility:
 - renovate current Wheatley building,
 - build a new building on the Wheatley site or at another location or
 - move to another established building that can accommodate BDEA's full programming.
- Current approximation for BDEA programming needs (currently located at Wheatley) is 55,000 square feet. BDEA 2.0 occupies ~10,000 square feet at the Timilty. Together, BDEA occupies 65,000 square feet for all programming. M. Minor Wood explained construction costs associated with this size build and timeline (77M; ~ five years from date of a construction agreement).
- Questions:
- Board members noted the complexity of the process which includes hiring an architect, project management and then the construction. We must make the case for our importance in the city: addressing persistent wealth, employment and race disparities through our programming. Focus on our attention to career exploration and skills training.
- The price is around 77M, bu we should not taken aback by the price. If the city is going to invest 2B in this project, 77M is a reasonable number. The timeline seems more daunting than the price given the urgency of our facility needs.

- The board suggested our rational focus on the stunning gap between rich and poor and white and POC. BDEA is different because of the social emotional supports and we need to continue to change the narrative so it is clear that BDEA can't be compared apples to apples with graduation and attendance outcomes.
- The board noted that there are endless schools in need of renovation (130 buildings over 130 years) and it will be a huge political lift to get in front of the queue. If MSBA does two projects/year how do we get BDEA in the front of the line? M. Minor Wood responded that her work is not to create a design and formal plan but to position us on the Green New Deal radar so that we are included in the plan and our contribution to Boston's larger political and social goals are clear.
- The Massachusetts School Building Authority: They prioritize specific projects (such as Dearborn and Boston Arts Academy). Given the queue for this funding, not all new schools or school renovations will be funded by the MSBA.
- A. Hramiec summarized next steps: We have been told that the next round of Green New Deal school priorities will include BDEA in November. We therefore want to provide our BPS contacts with our report prior to the start of the school year. We will have the BDEA facilities subcommittee review the report in August which we will send to the Mayor, Superintendent and Sam Depina's team.
- Goal is a three-page, concise and convincing document that will highlight BDEA as a priority.

Marketing/Recruitment Update:

J. Kantrowitz, Director of Institutional Advancement, provided an update on hiring a new marketing firm, Brodeur Marketing. J. Kantrowitz explained the process of issuing an RFP, receiving proposals, carrying out short phone interviews and the selection process. The firm will focus on new student recruitment and fundraising.

Head of School Evaluation and Vote:

S. Blasdale reviewed the process, timeline and system for gathering feedback from staff and board members for the formal evaluation of Head of School Alison Hramiec. This responsibility sits with the Executive Committee which works most closely with the Head of School. The final step in the process is submission to Talent Ed website which S. Blasdale will carry out this year. S. Blasdale having shared the evaluation with the board in advance, called for feedback or changes. There were none. C. Rothfus called for a vote to approve the Head of School evaluation. S. Blasdale seconded the motion, there were no opposing votes, and the evaluation was unanimously approved.

Complete Board Self-Assessment:

C. Rothfus explained that the board carries out an annual self-assessment. The link to the assessment was shared via Zoom and board members were asked to complete the form at the conclusion of the meeting or at the latest by the end of the week.

New Business:

N/A

Adjourn:

S. Page moved to adjourn the meeting, S. Blasdale seconded and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kantrowitz