

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes
April 26, 2023

Attendance: Jennie Hallisey, Alison Hramiec, Maddrey Goode, Norma Suarez, Sonya Page, Alisa Hunter, Jonathan Barry, Cris Rothfuss, Lisa Laguerre, Tyron Boswell

Others in Attendance: Janet Platt, Rawchayl Sahadeo, Leslie Hill-Singleton, Latashia Furtado, Margaret Samp

Clerk: Rawchayl Sahadeo

Absent: Spencer Blasdale, Jumaane Kendrick, Salesia Hughes-Hibbert, Dre Woodberry, Jill Kantrowitz

Location: Zoom

Documents/Exhibits Used: March 8, 2023 minutes (for review and approval), April 26 meeting agenda, BoT slides including Course completion and Graduation data; BoT meeting topics + Data

Call to Order

M. Goode called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm and reviewed the agenda. M. Goode called for a review of minutes of March 8, 2023. Alisa Hunter made a motion to accept the notes. Jonathan Barry seconded the motion. All in attendance at 5:40 pm approved the meeting notes. No one abstained.

Connections

Alisa Hunter shared the Connections prompt: *"What rating are you currently at in your mood? What are you going to do to get your number up by +1 pt tonight?"* The BoT members participated in the community building activity.

Head of School Report Updates

Graduation Appreciations - April graduation occurred on April 6, 2023. Hramiec thanked M. Goode who presented the "Board welcome" at graduation. BoT member Jonathan Barry was in attendance. BDEA's next graduation will be held on June 15 @ 6 pm.

Food service/Facilities - Hramiec, Goode, and Camacho met with lead of Food services and Sam DePina to determine if BDEA could move away from BPS this spring and cater our own meals with our own staff, using our funds. This would be a cost of approximately \$19K for the remainder of the school year. BDEA made the request to move to My Way Cafe (scratch cooking with meal options for students) for the Fall of SY24. Our currency food service model is not working for our student population.

BPS was not in favor of this move, because of union and contract constraints. Sam Depina instead advocated that BDEA and BPS food service work together to hire more staff for BDEA's two campuses so we could get to My Way Cafe for the fall. In the meantime if we wanted to supplement food services we could do that on our own as long as it does not compete with food services meal times and we did not use the cafeteria. Ms Camacho has offered to be on the hiring committee and BDEA staff will circulate the food service job description at upcoming family events. We remain hopeful that BPS will be able to full staff our kitchen by next Fall. However, this spring, if hiring is not complete, we will need to discuss next steps to ensure BDEA students get healthy food options on both campuses. We may also want to explore a partnership with Project Bread to supplement staffing in the cafeteria. Overall, the meeting with BPS did not produce the outcomes we hoped it would.

Questions from BoT:

- Would BPS food be served if we bring in catering food? Yes
- Is there any strategy of mitigating food waste? No district resolution.

Facilities - BDEA will schedule a meeting for a Facilities update and request to be a part of the next Green New Deal building arrangements for SY23-24. There will be an upcoming meeting scheduled for Hramiec and M. Goode to attend.

Equitable Literacy Data - Hramiec reviewed the GLEAM Literacy work and the three-year support of TNTP, a third party agency supporting our grant work. The BoT reviewed the Equitable Literacy Theory of Action, Literacy Vision, and purpose of whole-school literacy work. Hramiec highlighted the three TNTP walkthroughs results conducted throughout the school year which focused on the four rubric foci areas are: Culture of Learning, High-Quality Texts, Questions & Tasks, and Student Ownership. Hramiec shared the "Growth Over Time" data ranging from SY21-22 and SY22-23 data. From the data results, the school will focus areas on improving with related professional development next year on: Questions & Tasks and Student Ownership. The next formal walkthrough will be held on May 4, led by Weddee and Capo, and ILs. In March 2023, Hallisey and Weddee, and ILs led the Formal Walkthroughs.

Data Dive Course Completion and Graduation Rates - Scott and Edwin

Cam Scott and Edwin Armas shared course completion and graduation rates with the board. They shared the difference between the 2.0 course completion data versus flagship data. The data was disaggregated by students on IEP vs non-IEP and ELL and non-ELL course completion. Course completion data was also shared based on student attendance percentage.

Scott and Armas also shared graduation data, disaggregated by gender. BDEA tends to graduate more female students. Although 60% of students on average enter very close to graduation, the average is 2.75 years to graduate from BDEA. BDEA dropout data was also shared and graduation and dropout data was shared that compared BDEA to comparable alternative schools. Q: Does these drop-out rates include HiSet, or GED? Not if the student finishes those programs within 6 months of leaving the school.

Data missing from our graduation data are students who graduate after 5 years of highschool. It was noted that the majority of our students graduate after 5 years so the 4 year and 5 year graduation rates do not reflect our graduates.

Hramiec shared that the course completion by attendance data has led to staff discussions on our discharge practice of holding on to low attending students for consecutive multiple terms.

M. Goode shared that it is hard to have accountability without accounting for equity; we have to think about not viewing students as deficit-based, and when we present the data we should be clear about the narrative and context shared. A. Hunter shared that the school concern is attendance, but we need to focus on the person, not giving up on our students, like other entities have done in their past. L. Furtado shared that students may have challenges, but understanding their circumstances and SEL needs promotes graduation. L. Furtado shared that it is unfortunate that we do not receive credit. L. Hill-Singleton wondered if there is a way to talk to DESE that we are graduating students beyond the 5-Year rate for us to positively impact our graduation rate, with more accurate graduation numbers. Hramiec shared that BDEA does take the time with students who are not ready to leave high school vs push them out because of age, which is often the cause at other schools. Also, DESE has improved their advocacy for Alt-Ed schools, and there is a Super+ graduation rate, which is not included in the data shared today - but does include students who take 5+ years to graduate.

BDEA Financials SY24 - *Tabled for May meeting*

Head of School Evaluation

Maddrey Goode and Alisa Hunter shared with board members the Head of School evaluation process and Hramiec's Head of School goals for SY23. The board took the time to discuss the Head of School's progress on those goals, as input into the head of school evaluation. The feedback gathered will be brought to the board executive committee to be summarized with other stakeholder feedback into the final evaluation.

Adjournment

No motion to adjourn was conducted. The meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Next meeting - May 17; Topics shared on agenda.