

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes
January 12, 2024

Attendance: Maddrey Goode, Cris Rothfuss, Sonya Page, Jennie Hallisey, Alison Hramiec, Alisa Hunter, Salesia Hughes-Hibbert, Jumaane Kendrick, Dre Woodberry, Tyron Boswell, Jonathan Barry

Others in Attendance: Adrienne Level, Anita Ivarson, Blaine Yesselman, Michelle Allman, Margaret Samp, Jill Kantrowitz, Akshata Kadagathur

Clerk: Jill Kantrowitz

Absent: Norma Suarez, Lisa Laguerre, Jonathan Barry

Location: Zoom

Documents/Exhibits Used: November 8, 2023 minutes (for review and approval), January 12, 2024 meeting agenda, BoT slides

Call to Order

A Hramiec started the meeting at 5:35pm. Provided overview of the meeting agenda and the votes to be made during the meeting. A. Hunter called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

Connections

A. Hunter shared a connection prompt: What are you looking forward to this year? All present shared responses.

Board Minutes

A. Hramiec called for a review of the minutes from the November 2023 meeting. All read. S. Page called for approval and A. Hunter seconded the motion. All in attendance at 5:52pm approved the meeting notes. No abstentions.

Present and vote on SY25 ETWA

A. Kadagathur, Humanities teacher at BDEA, joined the meeting to present the Election to Work Agreement (ETWA). The review process began in October. BTU members conducted a survey of BTU staff and used responses for recommendations to make changes. Staff officially voted to approve the ETWA on January 12, 2024. The following are key changes from the prior year:

- 1) Added a statement that is aligned to the BTU contract, identifying Horace Mann Charter School's as being Schedule A schools. The team worked with BPS legal and BTU leadership to agree upon adding a statement to our ETWA that identified the additional 5 days at the start of the year, counting towards the calculation of Schedule A minutes. This allows BDEA BTU teachers to be paid for those additional hours, which BTU and BDEA feels is equitable.
- 2) Reduced number of days that Community Field Coordinators (CFCs), who are paid hourly, need to be present before and after the school year.
 - a) CFCs will now only be required to arrive 3 days, instead of five, at the start of the school year and end their school year when BPS ends their school year, vs staying 3 additional days for close out.

- b) The process has been affirming and there is appreciation that CFCs will be paid fairly for this time.
- 3) Made more transparent (by moving text around) the number of events that are mandatory for staff to attend. There are now five mandatory events annually. All other events are optional.

Call to vote: A. Hramiec explained that the Executive Team had done a walkthrough of the ETWA document and approved the changes made. M. Goode called for a motion to approve the ETWA. S. Page moved that the board approve the 2024-2025 ETWA as approved by the Executive Committee. S. Hughes-Hibbert seconded. No one opposed. Motion was passed. A Kadagathur departed the meeting.

Review and vote on SY24-28 BDEA Accountability Plan

Hramiec provided context to the 2024-2028 BDEA Accountability Plan. This document is required as part of the school's charter and aligns to the school's mission and Key Design Elements. Data for the accountability plan will be pulled annually in June and findings are summarized in the required Annual Report due August 1st annually to DESE. When BDEA applies for recharter, progress against accountability plan goals will be evaluated. Guidelines for the Accountability Plan changed for alternative education charter schools this year. There was a requirement for an academic growth goal, an academic achievement goal and a graduation goal. Schools were required to divide their students into engagement levels based on four types of data and plan goals were set based on those engagement levels. Document approval must pass from the BDEA BoT to BPS and then the BPS School Committee. A. Hramiec reviewed the specific Accountability Plan goals. A. Hramiec highlighted that one goal required BDEA to introduce pre and post Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth assessments as a means of understanding academic growth. This will be new for the BDEA community.

M. Goode called for a motion to approve the Accountability Plan. D. Woodbury moved that the board approve the 2024-2028 Accountability Plan. J. Hallisey seconded. Motion approved.

Present and vote on new board member

M. Goode presented Amanda Shabowich as a new Board of Trustees candidate. M. Goode called for a vote. A. Hunter moved to vote Amanda Shabowich to the BDEA Board of Trustees. J. Hallisey seconded the motion. All approved.

J. Kantrowitz presented Angela Collins as a candidate for the Board of Trustees. A. Hramiec will add A. Shaobowich to the DESE portal to formalize her joining the board and will invite her to the next meeting. A. Collins was approved to move forward in the nominating process. A. Hramiec provided an update that E. Zayas, a Trustee currently on a leave of absence, may return earlier than expected this school year.

Data Dive: Attendance Data

Data and Systems Manager, M. Allman, presented 2023-24 School Year attendance data. M. Allman described the distinction of measures (school attendance vs. class attendance). M. Allman presented details of BDEA's new Attendance Policy which began in October 2023. Strengths: the policy is responding to staff and student request for more transparency and structure. Through the policy, staff are uncovering why students are not coming to school and there is significantly more accountability. Building attendance levels have returned to preCOVID rates (60% building attendance). The policy is resulting in higher building attendance and more active student discharge after adequate interventions have taken place. The board discussed if transitions between programs are tracked and if so, how that impacts attendance data. Data suggests that BDEA has stabilized following the pandemic with raised expectations to be in school daily. The board reviewed disaggregated building attendance data by gender, race, English Learners and Special Education.

The board discussed class attendance data. The new class attendance policy includes incentives, family engagement and intervention plans organized by the Student Support Team. The board reviewed data across programs and disaggregated by gender, race, English Learners and Special Education. Blended Learning class attendance is down. The board felt the new policies are a strong balance between support, structure and incentives.

The board also discussed the importance of focusing on strong instruction so that students feel it is worth their time to attend school and class. School leaders are also in discussion to restructure the schedule for increased student engagement. The school now has a clothing rack, continually available hygiene products, and the option for students to shower and use laundry services when needed. A. Hramiec recognized everyone working to support these efforts which keep students coming to school. D. Woodbury suggested that families could use Title I funds for these resources.

Final Business

Hramiec gave short announcements: invited the board to a long term facilities Zoom mtg on Jan 17th and the April 4th luncheon and graduation. Also called for a board welcome and ideas for a graduation speaker.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was conducted by D. Woodbury. S. Hughes-Hibbert seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.

Next meeting - Wednesday March 6th - 5:30-7:30 pm