

Boston Day and Evening Academy  
Board of Trustees Minutes  
June 5, 2024

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**Attendance in Person:** Maddrey Goode, Jennie Hallisey, Alison Hramiec, Jonathan Barry, Alisa Hunter, Cris Rothfuss, Jumaane Kendrick, Sonya Page, Angela Collins (by Zoom)

**Others in Attendance:** Blaine Yesselman, Margaret Samp, Jill Kantrowitz, Michelle Allman, Irma Camacho, Latashia Furtado

**Clerk:** Jill Kantrowitz

**Absent:** Tyron Boswell, Salesia Hibbert-Hughes, Amanda Shabowich

**Location:** In Person, Boston Day and Evening Academy 20 Kearsarge Avenue Roxbury MA 02119. On Zoom for one Trustee.

**Documents/Exhibits Used:** May 8, 2024 minutes (for review and approval), June 5, 2024 meeting agenda, BoT slides

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### **Call To Order**

Dinner was provided to all Trustees. M. Goode called the meeting to order at 5:49pm. Provided overview of the meeting agenda and topics.

### **Board Minutes and Agenda Review**

M. Goode called for a review of the minutes from the May 8th, 2024 meeting. All read. A. Hunter called for approval and S. Page seconded the motion. All in attendance at 5:54pm approved the meeting minutes. No abstentions.

### **Connections**

A. Hunter shared a connecting prompt: "What is something that you have appreciated about this year on the Board?" OR "What is something you are looking forward to this summer?" Or "How will you refresh or care for yourself this summer?" All present reflected on the questions in pairs and then shared responses with the group.

### **Update: Facilities + ETWA**

ETWA: A change came forward in the Election to Work Agreement (ETWA). When this happens, staff need to ratify the change with a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote and then it must be approved by the Board of Trustees. The board packet included language about the proposed change; a change in date for working a six hour time period during the 2024-25 school year. All board members read the change description which had been approved by staff prior to the Trustee meeting. C. Rothfuss moved to approve the changes that had previously been voted on in the affirmative by the staff. J. Hallisey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously passed. No abstentions.

Facilities: A. Hramiec provided an update related to BDEA's tenure at the James P. Timilty Middle School campus where BDEA 2.0 and the Blended Learning programs are housed. In mid May, A. Hramiec was told by BPS that BDEA 2.0 and Blended Learning would need to vacate the Timilty Building by the end of June to be moved to the Patrick F. Gavin school in S. Boston. This was prompted by a planned renovation to Madison Park Technical Vocational High School which will use the Timilty building as swing space during the renovation. Since that time, BDEA has worked hard to advocate for a different set of options, specifically requesting that BDEA, if moved, remain in Nubian Square in a facility that can

accommodate all students. Superintendent Mary Skipper has not been able to guarantee a facility for BDEA in Nubian Square on a specific timeline given that there are many schools in line for facilities through the Green New Deal process. BDEA has suggested alternative options and/or taken the following actions:

- Explored a move to City on a Hill which is slated to close and is looking to be sold in school year 2025-26. It will only hold 350 students and they will not allow BDEA to partially join the community for school year 2024-25.
- Request to BPS to delay departure from the Timilty until at least December 2024.
- Toured a retail space in Nubian Square at the recommendation of Steven Davis (of the Davis Companies) but the site was deemed too small.
- Explored move to the Roxbury Community College campus. This will continue to be explored but the timeline is too fast to establish this partnership for school year 2024-25.
- Board members Jon Barry and Alisa Hunter, as well as BDEA 2.0 Alumnus Jacory Martin spoke at School Committee in May.
- Adrienne Level, BDEA 2.0 Program Leader and BDEA 2.0 Alumnus Asberry Lawton were speaking at School Committee this evening (June 5th)
  - Ms. Level will name our concern of being passed over in the Green New Deal by schools including Boston Green Academy and BINCA.
- Continue to name our space and programming priorities and needs to the District, and look at properties that can be leased in the Nubian Square area.

The board raised questions about the amount of space needed and A. Hramiec confirmed that according to our MOU, Boston Public Schools will be responsible for any potential lease agreement. The board proposed writing a letter to the School Committee, Mayor's Office and BPS Superintendent's office stating the school's needs, the board's concern with this process and the expectation to remain in Nubian Square in a facility that accommodates all students. Trustees emphasized the need to continue to work with key advocates in the city. M. Goode may not advocate against the city of Boston as a city employee, but a letter can be submitted on behalf of the full Board of Trustees. The board named the importance of requiring that BDEA remain in Nubian Square. M. Goode also noted MassHire Career Center will soon be vacating their location and A. Hramiec and M. Goode should talk about contacting the CEO to understand potential use of this space. The Board also noted the importance of running a report of zip codes to confirm where students are currently living. C. Rothfuss, C. Page and A. Collins shared their intentions to draft the letter on behalf of the board.

### **Subcommittee Report Out**

Each board subcommittee shared highlights and accomplishments from the year. Highlights include:

- *Executive Committee* - started the year with a retreat and then met at least monthly. Reviewed data reports ahead of board meetings, oversaw the Head of School evaluation, worked with C. Rothfuss on MOU A and B and bylaws. Recruited and brought on two new board members with more fidelity to that process. Reviewed ETWA before bringing it to the larger board.
- *Marketing Committee* - tracked data related to student applications to inform student recruitment actions and created more alignment internally to answer "What is BDEA?" Next year the committee will focus on thought leadership and sharing BDEA's expertise to be more visible at conferences. Will also activate the alumni cohort to tell stories – with a more consistent social media presence.
- *Finance Committee* - Ensured adherence to regulatory standards. Continues to plan ahead for ESSER cliff. Enhanced the BDEA Investment Policy and updated BDEA's 5-year Projected Budget.
- *Development Committee (not a formal Board Committee)* - secured one more member so will become a Foundation Board of Directors in school year 2024-25.

The school did not initiate a Family Engagement Committee as planned but the board discussed increased interfacing between committees in the year to come to advance school goals. It was suggested that the board should have a Facilities Committee given the current facility challenges the school is facing. All agreed.

#### **LT Reflection on SY23-24 and Final Appreciations and Gratitude**

Staff members Irma Camacho, Latashia Furtado, Anita Ivarson and Margie Samp shared highlights from their departments (Operations, Admissions, Student Support, Special Education and Post Graduate Planning). A. Hramiec recognized Margaret Samp and Rawchayl Sahadeo for their service at BDEA. Both staff members will not be returning next year. Other board members expressed their appreciation for BDEA staff.

#### **New Business**

A. Hramiec shared the following reminders: Graduation is June 13th at the school.

#### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was conducted by C. Rothfuss and seconded by J.Hallisey the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:31pm.

#### **Upcoming opportunities to connect with BDEA community**

Wednesday June 5th - 5:30-7:30 pm