

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes
September 18, 2024

Attendance in Person: Maddrey Goode, Alison Hramiec, Jonathan Barry, Alisa Hunter, Salesia Hibbert-Hughes, Amanda Shabowich, Sonya Page, Angela Collins, Dre Woodberry

Others in Attendance: Jill Kantrowitz, Blaine Yesselman, Adrienne Level

Clerk: Jill Kantrowitz

Absent: Cris Rothfuss, Jumaane Kendrick

Location: On Zoom

Documents/Exhibits Used: June 5, 2024 minutes (for review and approval), September 18, 2024 meeting agenda, BoT slides

Call To Order

M. Goode called the meeting of the BDEA Board of Trustees to order on September 18th at 5:42pm. A. Hramiec shared an overview of the agenda.

Board Minutes and Agenda Review

M. Goode called for a review of the minutes from the June 5, 2024 meeting. All read. J. Barry called for approval and A. Collins seconded the motion. All in attendance at 5:44pm approved the meeting minutes. No abstentions.

Vote on New Board Member

A. Hramiec presented a potential new Trustee, Evelyn Zayas, who is returning from a one-year hiatus for personal reasons. Trustees made comments about the positive impact E. Zayas has made in prior years including directing more effective reserve investments and better integration of the BDEA Foundation. M. Goode called for a vote to have Evelyn Zayas return to the Board of Trustees. S. Hughes-Hibbert made the motion. S. Page seconded the motion. All approved. No abstentions. So moved. Evelyn was voted in as a returning board member. A. Hramiec will contact E. Zayas to communicate this decision.

Review our Commitments: Executive and Board Members

J. Barry led a reflection from the BOT's self assessment in June 2024. Data was previously reviewed by the Executive Committee and shared at this meeting. High Level: feedback was consistently positive. Trustees all feel welcome and engaged on the board, all are committed to continuing, subcommittee work was focused on the right topics, and time for meetings on Wednesdays 5:30-7:30pm was adequate. Future intention: (1) create a more efficient Head of School evaluation process for growth for A. Hramiec. Align metrics which are now distinct between BOT and BPS. (2) Identify ways for BOT to leverage strengths and skills outside of meetings for support of the school (i.e. facilities advocacy). (3) Determine how BOT can better support members of the program and learning experiences. (4) Create one unified vision for subcommittees (i.e. what comes after the Timilty extension for School Year 2024-25). A. Hramiec shared the desire to integrate progress on goals with the board across the year so feedback for improvement can be ongoing. A. Hramiec asked board members to update personal demographics for data collection. Board is seeking new members with connections within Boston, and finance and legal skills. C. Rothfuss is the only Trustee who is an attorney and her term concludes in June 2025. Trustees were asked to email A. Hramiec with any referrals. A. Hramiec described the new member onboarding process. A. Hramiec shared prompts for Trustee reflection about the role they want to play this year. All Trustees read through the prompts and

shared how they wanted to be involved. Responses included attending significant events, advancement support, fundraising, increasing partnerships, interacting and supporting families, and uplifting student voices.

Connections

A. Hunter shared a connecting prompt about self care and personal engagement. All shared reflections.

Present committees for SY24

A. Hunter shared outcomes of the Executive Committee summer retreat. The committee identified four board committees for school year 2024-25: Finance (Goals: oversee budget, audit and general finances, map out spending strategy for next three years, update long term investments); Alumni (Goals: build a stronger connection/relationship between alumni and current BDEA community for fundraising and student recruitment); Parent Council (Goals: work with Family Liaison to support family engagement and new student recruitment); Student Recruitment (Goals: formerly focused on marketing and branding, will now support accountability on enrollment, use of metrics, outreach efforts, community outreach and recruitment strategy). A. Hramiec requested a Trustee to support onboarding by receiving Trustee nominations to bring forth to the Executive Committee. Trustees filled out a survey for subcommittee preference. A. Hramiec explained that facilities is an ongoing advocacy need and therefore considered the responsibility of the full board. Committees will be formalized at the Board Retreat on October 26, 2024.

A. Hunter presented the full slate of Trustees for approval. D. Woodberry made a motion to approve the list. S. Hughes-Hibbert seconded the motion. All in attendance at 6:39pm approved the list of board officers as presented. No abstentions.

Start of Year Update

A. Hramiec presented an update on BDEA as the school year begins. Priority is to surpass BPS projection of 333 students to reach a goal of 350. There are currently ~340 students compared to fewer than 300 at this time last year. This is attributed to more focused work on keeping students enrolled and stricter guidelines with attendance. BDEA 2.0 and Blended Learning have been permitted to remain at the Timilty building at least through the end of the school year. A. Hramiec thanked the Trustees who spoke at School Committee. Trustees voiced the need to continue advocating for facilities and to proactively find solutions while working with BPS staff. According to the school's MOU, BPS should inform BDEA by January of any potential changes. We must continue to promote the vision for BDEA as a state of the art alternative education school. Trustees agreed to continue to invite BPS leaders to graduations and the board should continue to strategize on advocacy. BDEA continues to focus on equitable literacy, ensuring that students are taking ownership of their learning. BDEA senior staff reviewed Youth Truth staff and student survey data to inform changes in school culture. The school will refocus on Habits of Success and Habits of Mind which are founding concepts for BDEA. There is a deeper focus on shared accountability and consistent and clear communication. A small group of staff will be working with consultant Tammy Tai for "portrait of a graduate" work to establish a shared vision of practices that transcend all three academic programs, better establishing how they differ while holding the same values. This is intended to conclude by March 2025. A. Hramiec will speak further about this work and how it ties to her goals as Head of School at the board retreat in October.

New Business and Upcoming opportunities to connect with BDEA community

A. Hramiec shared the following reminders: BDEA Board Retreat will be at the main school building (20 Kearsarge Avenue) on a Saturday. During that retreat, Trustees will be asked to sign up for events for the year, including Board Welcome remarks at each of our graduations.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was conducted by A. Hunter and seconded by D. Woodberry. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm by M. Goode.