

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes, Board Meeting
Date: April 16, 2025
Time: 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Location: Zoom

Attendance:

Present: J. Barry, M. Goode, A. Hramiec, S. Hughes-Hibbert, A. Hunter, A. Kadagathur, J. Kendrick, S. Page, A. Shabowich, D. Woodberry

Absent: A. Collins, C. Hendricks, C. Rothfuss

Others in Attendance: M. Allman, J. Kantrowitz, A. Level, B. Yesselman

Clerk: J. Kantrowitz

Documents/Exhibits Used: March 20, 2025 minutes (for review and approval), April 16, 2025 meeting agenda, BoT slides

Call to Order

M. Goode called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM, reviewed the agenda, and called for a review of the March 20, 2025 minutes.

Board Minutes and Agenda Review

Motion: A. Hunter moved to approve the minutes from March 20, 2025.

Second: J. Barry seconded.

Outcome: All approved, no abstentions.

School Year 2024–25 Goals Progress

A. Hramiec and B. Yesselman presented an update on schoolwide goals and progress. Goals were informed by feedback from staff and consultant Tammy Tai, focused on five themes:

- Lack of long-term instructional vision to ground daily practice
- Unclear school identity post-pandemic
- Limited alignment on core instructional practices
- Disconnect between short-term accountability and daily work
- Overemphasis on adult-adult relationships instead of adult-student relationships

The leadership team used the accountability plan to shape SY 2024-25 goals and aligned staff professional learning time accordingly. Adjustments have been made during the year based on data and team observations.

Instructional Vision and Practice

B. Yesselman, Director of Instruction, presented on instructional priorities centered around complex, grade-level-aligned tasks with emphasis on discourse, writing, and problem solving. Key developments included:

- Walkthrough tool use beginning in Trimester 1
- Notable curriculum progress and cultural responsiveness
- Gaps in student collaboration and cognitive engagement

Springpoint's school visit affirmed strengths (real-world learning, academic rigor, strong supports) and surfaced aligned areas for growth (e.g., peer learning, student-led engagement).

Term 2 showed improvement in teaching academic language and vocabulary, grade level engagement, as well as texts and tasks, with continued work needed on peer feedback and collaboration (as noted by Springpoint).

Looking ahead:

- Instructional PD and walkthrough tool updates will align with the new Portrait of a Graduate
- Focus areas for SY 2025-26 include student engagement and collaboration
- Instructional rounds will center these themes, and data will be used for shared learning

Board Discussion:

- A. Shabowich asked about inclusion of student voice. Discussed in-class surveys, student feedback loops, and plans to engage students in instructional rounds.
- A. Kadagathur suggested pre-post perception surveys paired with observation data.

Portrait of a Graduate and School Identity

A. Hramiec presented the school's new Portrait of a Graduate work, developed by the Vision Team over nine meetings with staff input. The vision reflects BDEA's identity as a relationship-driven, competency-based learning community.

The habits (for students and adults) underpin this work and are being embedded into systems including PGP and instructional practice. Board members praised the clarity and aspirational tone of the Portrait.

Bell Schedule Revision

M. Allman and A. Hramiec shared the new SY2025-26 bell schedule. Notable changes:

- Start time: 9:00 AM, End time: 3:10 PM
- Longer learning blocks and SEL/support time
- Wednesday becomes the short day (replacing two short days - Wednesday *and* Friday)

Support blocks (academic and wellness options) will be personalized based on student-advisor collaboration and discussion, not drop-in.

Course Completion and Graduation Data

M. Allman presented updated student progress data:

- Steady increases in course completion and high competency ratings
- Students with IEPs completing more courses, though earning fewer top scores
- English Learners face persistent challenges; small group of long-term ELs (n=26) often overlap with IEP services

Graduation Trends:

- Average time to graduate: 2.9 years
 - 79% of students entering within one year of expected graduation
 - Female graduates outpacing males; equity trends under review
 - Attendance around 50%; age of graduation declining
 - Projecting more than 60 graduates for 2025
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Graduation and Alumni Engagement

Graduation will be held at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School on June 17th due to the large graduating class. D. Woodberry and A. Shabowich will formally welcome graduates into the Alumni Association as part of the ceremony.

Reflection Exercise

A. Hunter led a connecting reflection exercise for all present: Board members and staff shared personal wins and self-care goals for the week.

Head of School Evaluation: Input

This was a private board session to discuss the process for the Head of School evaluation. Non-Board members (non-Trustees) were not included and no minutes were taken.

Adjournment

Motion: A. Hunter moved to adjourn the meeting.

Second: A. Kadagathur seconded.

Outcome: All approved, no abstentions.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM by M. Goode.