

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Retreat Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Attendance: Danny Rivera, David Jones, Spencer Kimball, Evelyn Zayas, Maddrey Goode, Lauren Barry, Toni Elka, Brandy Allen, Cris Rothfuss, Alison Hramiec

Others in Attendance: Elisabeth Ewick, Margaret Samp, Adrienne Level, Leslie Hill-Singleton, Janet Platt, Norman Lowe, Latashia Furtado, Irma Camacho, Camella Scott, Rawchayl Sahadeo

Clerk: Claire Gracia

Call to Order

Rothfuss called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

Welcome and Review Agenda

To start the meeting, each attendee introduced themselves. The Board and attendees reviewed the Board minutes from May. Rothfuss made a motion to accept the minutes, with Elka seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Review End of Year Data

Scott shared enrollment data with the Board, showing that the number of students served and enrolled declined this year. Moise shared the past and future Orientation plans, adding that she has already noticed an increase in interest from potential students. There will be 6 orientations throughout the summer and a second Check-In initiative--2 weeks of staff reaching out to students with below 30% attendance in an attempt to re-engage them.

The team added that the graduation trend is decreasing but it is not due to drop-out. BDEA has about 200 12th graders on paper, making a larger number of students eligible for graduation. They believe that the recent policy changes might affect the graduation rate. Also, the school has created a blended learning lab which will pull 50 students who learn better remotely to the Distance Learning Program. For SY21-22, the school plans to work with City Year to provide academic support inside the classroom, bring in counselors for the students and continue partnerships with the Madison Park Development Corporation and Boston's Private Industry Council. While reflecting on the past year, BDEA noticed the best attendance rate during the first term of SY20-21. Since BDEA hasn't been discharging students, the attendance rate continued to decrease in terms 2, 3 and 4. The shift to in person learning will foster connections within our staff and students and we expect to see an increase in our numbers.

While comparing 2.0 to the Flagship, 2.0's data sees a greater decline due to the impact of the pandemic on our most at risk students. Other schools count attendance differently and it would be helpful to have comparison data to other alternative education schools in order to tell the story of why this happens. The Wellness Checks in August will be a good assessment of how the students will transition back to fully in person.

The BDEA team will continue to evaluate the data and how attendance is measured and assessed. There is a difference between intervention and engagement. The challenge of students prioritizing work versus school makes them analyze how they engage with students and family. If we assess students, should we assess what can be controlled?

Similarly, the Board discussed outreach about the vaccine and education in order to ease our community's mind and show that others in the room are also vaccinated.

Vote on SY22 Budget

The Board reviewed the proposed budget for SY22 and discussed how much money they will pull from ESSER, how they have budgeted this past school year and how they will budget in the upcoming year. The budget showed the effect of the pandemic on our funding, what we thought we were going to spend and the proposed budget. It will cost approximately \$730,000 for programming and staffing with a \$500,000 salary gap which shows how much of our ESSER 1 and ESSER 2 funds we will be pulling to meet the gap and fund programming and staffing. We have enough money for the next four years and we will create a plan for what to do when the money runs out. As enrollment grows, so will our staff and we have enough funds to cover it.

The new Director of Institutional Advancement will focus on looking for more corporate and individual dollars and form the foundation board, assuming flat funding on the rest of the entitlement dollars. We are anticipating a Culturally Responsive Instructional Coach to work with our staff.

Zayas called a motion to vote and Kimball seconded the vote. The Board unanimously approved the proposed budget for SY22.

Update: Board Recruitment

As a result of the departure of three Board members, the Board discussed how to recruit for their seats and the Foundation Board. A list was generated and they planned to reach out to potential candidates over the summer. If they are interested, they will meet the students and a board member to discuss what it means to sit on BDEA's Board. If the candidate wants to join our Board, we will vote on the candidates at our September meeting and the new members will join the October meeting. If there are any more candidates, they should share their names with Hramiec. The Board made note of the gaps on the current Board and discussed the importance of recruiting people with SEL, finance and marketing expertise. The Foundation Board will be a later priority once the new Director of Advancement is involved.

Board Reflection

The Board and Leadership Team spent time reflecting on the subcommittees and the past year. The Finance

Committee, Facilities Committee and COVID-19 Response Committee all made significant progress toward their goals, including a \$90k profit from investments, gaining momentum from the Strategy Group for acquiring a new building, working towards finding another facility for BDEA, and working with the community to figure out how to best support everyone.

Final Appreciations

According to Hramiec, this year's Board was the most active compared to past years. The Board moved away from the traditional subcommittees and created subcommittees based on what the school actually needs. Everyone played a big role in helping the school. Appreciation was given to the Leadership Team and members of the Board. Although some Board members are leaving, they would like to continue to support the school in fundraising and SEL.

New Business Adjourn

Danny moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. Toni seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Gracia