

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes
Wednesday, September 15, 2021

Attendance: Alison Hramiec, Evelyn Zayas, Cris Rothfuss, Spencer Kimball, Maddrey Goode, Jennie Hallisey, Sonya Page, David Jones

Others in Attendance: Janet Platt, Latashia Furtado

Clerk: Claire Gracia

Location: Zoom

Call to Order

Rothfuss called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

Welcome from Board Chair, Review Agenda

Rothfuss welcomed the Board and guests by sharing a quote from Robert Kennedy about the purpose of life as it relates to our service on the Board (“The purpose of life is to contribute in some way to making things better.”). The Board discussed the changes for notetaking and creating meeting minutes, agreeing to review the Board minutes before the meeting. Rothfuss made a motion to accept the June minutes and it was seconded by Zayas. All Board members voted in favor of approving the June minutes.

Audit: Procurement Policy Review

Rothfuss and Hramiec reviewed revisions to the [Procurement Policy](#) made after our audit from DESE. In the meeting, Rothfuss made a further revision to make it clear that the school will adhere to the objectives outlined in the procurement process.

The Board discussed creating future objectives that reflect the school’s mission, particularly our anti-racist mission, utilizing sources of supply with vendors and contractors with policies we agree with, specifically minority owned businesses. The Finance Committee will look into this and share ideas.

Rothfuss made a motion to approve the version of the Procurement Policy that was presented at and revised during the Board meeting today. Kimball seconded the motion and the Board members unanimously approved the Procurement Policy.

Vote on Potential Board Members for SY21-22

Hramiec shared the biographies of potential Board members. The Executive Team went through the original list of potential members and got commitment from 4 people. The potential new members include:

1. Lisa Laguerre
2. Jumaane Kendrick
3. Alisa Hunter
4. Perry Hull

Board members who have connections with the potential new members shared about their work and connection to our mission. Members agreed that the 4 potential new members have the experience and passion that we are looking for.

Rothfuss made a motion to accept each candidate to the BDEA Board of Trustees. The motion was seconded by Blasdale and it was unanimously approved by all members.

Hramiec shared that the new Advancement Director, Jill Kantrowitz will join us at our next Board meeting and she will work on creating a foundation board.

DESE Site Visit Findings and Recommendations

Hramiec shared DESE's findings and recommendations adding that a lot are easily fixable but there is one area that deserves attention: how BDEA does academic review. The site visit found that access, equity and mission exceeded expectations. Student performance wasn't part of the review but program delivery meets the needs but they didn't look at instruction. Capacity and Board met needs partially.

Most of the recommendations have already been changed including a change in the application about Special Education, adding a translator to the website, and adding an application in Chinese. Within governance, the Board Clerk will fix most of the issues. The MOU needs to be signed by BTU, the Superintendent, School Committee, and Rothfuss. The Board will also have to adjust how they give feedback and vote on the Head of School evaluation.

Moving forward, BDEA will take a better look at data and our trends to identify who is attending and achieving. The school has been successful in recruiting and retaining students and partially succeeds in retaining them, highlighting a need to improve our suspension and retention rates. Hramiec will share the segregated data at our Board meetings. The Board will also need to create a School Leader Succession Plan.

Updates: Facilities & Budget

Hramiec shared an update with the Board regarding how to proceed with the consultants. The consultants were hired to create a strategy for working with Boston Public Schools and leveraging the community for identifying a new facility. Together, we created a vision slide deck that was used for the Superintendent and BuildBPS with the

end goal of a state-of-the-art alternative school. The Board discussed the priorities of BPS and the possibility of acquiring a new building for BDEA. The school and consultants worked to put BDEA in the public eye through the media, connecting with local politicians, creating partner letters on behalf of our community partnership and a letter from our alumni.

The Lyla Frederick School will be closing in two years which could be a good option for BDEA. The Board decided to get another update on this building. The Board shared their thoughts about continuing to work with the consultants. They discussed looking for Board members with connections to BPS, reaching out to politicians once they are elected, understanding the decision making process for getting a new building, continuing with political and community pressure is our main strategy right now.

The Board discussed starting a capital campaign to find a building to renovate or becoming a Commonwealth Charter or identifying partners that could house our school. They agreed to discuss the facilities budget at the October meeting.

Reminder of Fall Retreat and Status of Graduation

Hramiec shared that BDEA will continue to invite the Board to graduations since they are held outdoors. She shared that Julia Mejia, the City Councillor at Large, spoke at one of our graduations and it was powerful. BDEA and the Board will brainstorm stakeholders to invite to these events.

New Business Adjourn

Rothfuss moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00pm. Page seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Gracia