

Boston Day and Evening Academy
Board of Trustees Minutes
Wednesday, March 09, 2022

Attendance: Jennie Hallisey, Cris Rothfuss, Alison Hramiec, Perry Hull, Spencer Kimball, Evelyn Zayas, David Jones, Sonya Page, Jumaane Kendrick, Salesia Hughes-Hibbert, Maddrey Goode.

Others in Attendance: Camella Scott, Janet Platt, Jill Kantrowitz, Asberry Lawton, Margaret Samp, Rawchayl Sahadeo, Benadette Manning.

Clerk: Jill Kantrowitz

Location: Zoom

Call to Order

Board Chairperson Cris Rothfuss called the meeting to order at 5:36. C. Rothfuss provided an overview of the agenda and then called for comments, concerns, questions or edits to the January 12, 2022 board minutes. None were voiced. C. Rothfuss then called for a vote of approval. P. Hull seconded the motion, there were no opposing votes and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Connections and Gratitudes

Instructional Lead R. Sahadeo led the group in a connecting prompt: “In your work environment or personal lives, who are the people you depend on? What will you commit to doing to strengthen or form a connection?” and trustees shared updates of recent means of connection.

Board Vote - BDEA MOU A + B

Head of School A. Hramiec provided the Board of Trustees with context to two Memoranda of Agreement (A and B) brought forth for a formal board approval vote: BDEA MOU A defines BDEA's autonomous relationship with Boston Public Schools; MOU B defines BDEA's relationship with the Boston Teachers Union (BTU). These documents must be updated every five years and were last updated in collaboration with BPS legal team and BDEA executive team in 2019. As of March 9, 2022 the BTU, Boston Public Schools Superintendent Brenda Cassellius and the Boston Public School Committee had all signed off on the revised documents. The next step is to formally submit the MOUs to the Massachusetts State Education Commissioner Jeffrey Reilly. The documents then become formally approved. Until that time, the former MOUs remain in effect. After brief discussion, the board requested time to review the MOUs more carefully so a formal vote was postponed until the April board meeting.

Data Dive: BDEA graduation and discharge data (disaggregated)

Data & Accountability Manager C. Scott provided a presentation on graduation and discharge data for the 2021-2022 school year. Data presented was collected through 2.28.22. C. Scott reviewed the BDEA 2.0 and flagship competency based education models for context to all board members. C. Scott reviewed specific interventions at BDEA intended to increase attendance and course completion. These include: blended learning, traction academy, BDEA 2.0, young parents initiative and career exploration groups. For school year 22-23 we will hire a Career Exploration Coordinator and an Attendance Coordinator to address both course completion and school and class attendance. There was a brief discussion about the impact of student employment on school attendance. There was an inquiry about whether we know why students are not attending at typical rates. A. Hramiec confirmed that we are gathering data directly from students and continue to hear that given the choice, our students are electing to work because a paycheck is more urgent than their high school diploma presently.

Advancement Update

J. Kantrowitz, Director of Institutional Advancement, provided an update of year to date donations by donor type (individual, corporate, foundation and board), with commentary on the intention of how to grow each of these revenue streams. J. Kantrowitz then provided an overall fundraising strategy focused on marketing and branding, establishing a foundation board of directors, cultivating and stewardship of current donors and using data to tell the BDEA story.

Subcommittee Updates, Q/A

The data subcommittee provided a brief description of their collaborative work year to date.

Given the time, all other agenda items were tabled until the April 2022 board of trustees meeting. C. Rothfuss moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. Mr. Goode seconded the motion and the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Kantrowitz