BRONX GLOBAL LEARNING INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS CHARTER SCHOOL
THE SHIRLEY RODRIGUEZ-REMENESKI SCHOOL
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
March 10, 2021

MEETING CHAIR: Dina Velez
MEETING LOCATION: Zoom
ATTENDANCE:
Board Members: Carla Anderson – CA, Hanna Campbell - HC , Nydia Novoa-Sancho – NNS, Victoria Jenn Rodriguez – VJR (absent, excused), KoKoe Tanaka-Suwan, Dina Velez – DV, Marques Whitmire - MW
BGLIG Staff: Lester Sampson, Stephanie Mendez, Mylene Pionilla

I. Call to Order
Dina called the meeting to order at 6:30pm and conducted roll call.

II. Introduction/Welcome
Dina welcomed board members, school staff and members of the broader BGLIG community. She shared the options for translation into Spanish with meeting attendees and reviewed the meeting's agenda.

Hanna gave an update on the new public comment process. The BGLIG board is very interested in hearing from the larger BGLIG community so that we can learn more about their perspectives, experiences and questions. Throughout the board meeting, members of the public may add their name to a list and will be given two minutes to share any comments that they have during the public comment section of the agenda.

III: Executive Director Report

The school's Executive Director, Ms. Mendez, shared a report on the school. This update included a personnel update that celebrated a teaching assistant who was promoted to 5th grade Spanish teacher and a teacher who had recently received her teacher certification. The personnel update also included information about the school's current vacancies, of which there are three, and the school's plan for filing these positions. The plan includes partnering with two staffing agencies to conduct the search and a partnership with CUNY's school of education.

Ms. Mendez also gave an update on the school's professional development plan. The school has made significant investments in professional development this year. In addition to one half day of PD a month and 10 days of pre-service, BGLIG also has Wednesday PD where staff meets with their academy or whole school for PD. Topics have included writing effective IEPs, quality education etc. This was responsive to what teachers shared with the ED during her listening tour. BGLIG is working with Metamorphosis, external coaches and consultants to support staff development. Sancho and Associates, experts in dual language, serve as consultants to the school as well. The entire SLA team went to Teacher's College for PD.

Ms. Mendez talked about the three instructional priorities -- dual language instruction, rigorous standards based instruction and blended learning.

The ED report also included an enrollment update.

- Special population enrollment is one of the standards that the DOE uses to measure our success and also it's the law, charter schools need to enroll SWD, ELL and ED at the same rate as the district.
- The ED showed a chart of school enrollment from 2015-2016 and to 2018-2019 showing that we have been under enrolled.
- In this time BGLIG's overall reported enrollment has been between 96% - 98% of the enrollment target
- To support higher enrollment, BGLIG has increased its investment in recruitment this year. The waitlist currently has 236 students. The goal is for that number to triple by next month
- We currently have 395 students enrolled -- 54 students with IEPs, 80 students who are categorized as ELL
- The school has devoted efforts and resources, revamped recruitment materials and has created a social media presence. BGLIG is now partnered with Schoolmint - a platform to streamline application, lottery and enrollment processes. BGLIG is also partnered with Schola, they advertise on behalf of the school. BGLIG has participated in recruitment fairs, internal open houses, launching a partnership with the New York Post to feature ads. Another investment has been in marketing and video production. The website has been updated.
- The application deadline for the 2021-2022 school year is April 1st. The lottery is on April 7th.

To close her report, Ms. Mendez shared a video featuring BGLIG students and families speaking about their experiences with the school.

IV. General Updates

Dina gave some general updates including an overview of the training and development that board members are receiving from Tugboat Consulting. To date, four hours of training sessions have been conducted and an additional two hours will be delivered in April.

Additionally, Dina shared that on March 15, our authorizer will present our renewal application to the Board of Regents.

Finally, Dina shared an update on UFT negotiations. BGLIG continues to offer full benefits to staff, is working on employee performance enhancement plan and a salary schedule. We began negotiations in 2018 and are hoping to complete that soon.

V. Committee Updates

The finance committee update was presented by the committee chair Marques.

- The current finance committee had its first meeting this month. The committee is still getting up to speed, but did have a few updates to share.
- As was mentioned in the ED report, our enrollment is down 11%. However, our revenue is down only by 4% due to actions taken by the ED and the school team. This includes applying for and receiving grants and the additional special education funding to support the ICT model. We've been able to shrink the gap by about $200,000 and we're working now to think about the enrollment numbers for next year. It's important to get our enrollment back to where it needs to be. NYS state revenues are down and experts are thinking that that could impact school revenue, so it's doubly important to get those enrollment numbers to where we need to be.

The academic committee update was presented by the committee chair Carla.

- The new Academic committee had their first meeting this month as well. We're looking at the I-Ready using that as a diagnostic to start to dig deep and figure out strengths and weaknesses of students in Math and ELA and that will coincide with professional development for staff -- the PD

will move into curriculum planning and mapping and how the curriculum should be looking vertically through the school. We're bringing in coaches to help support this work. The state hasn't made a formal announcement around the state exams so the school is planning on conducting its own mock assessment at the beginning of April/end of May.

- Mr. Sampson, the Special Education Coordinator, shared some special education updates. He spoke about the priority of creating more ICT classrooms and the partnerships that BGLIG has with organizations like The Collaborative for Inclusive Teaching and the Regional Partnership Support Team (RPST), a collaboration between the New York State Education Department and Office of Special Education. These partnerships are supporting the team to reimagine special education at BGLIG. Increasing the services that we offer will enable us to serve more students with special needs and ultimately increase our enrollment.

V: Resolutions
MOTION TO APPROVE : The February Board meeting minutes.

Motioned by: DV
2nd by: NNS
Discussions:
Votes for: ALL **Votes Against**: None
Motion passes: Yes

VI. Public Session

There were no public comments.

VII. Executive Session

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:49pm made by Dina, second by Hanna. All in favor. Motion passes.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 8:22pm and return to public session made by Hanna, second by Dina. All in favor. Motion passes

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Dina at 8:25pm. Hanna seconds. All in favor. Meeting is adjourned.