BRONX GLOBAL LEARNING INSTITUTE FOR GIRLS CHARTER SCHOOL
THE SHIRLEY RODRIGUEZ-REMENESKI SCHOOL

Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Minutes

Date: April 21, 2021
Time: 6:30PM

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

I. Call to Order
Dina called the meeting to order at 6:36pm and Hanna 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 a reminder about the public comment process. 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
Ms. Mendez shared some personnel updates, including a vacancy in first grade SLA. She spoke about enrichment opportunities that the school has been providing to the girls including sending home books for the girls to build their personal library and a new singing and self-love workshop that is being offered.

The 8th graders will have an opportunity to convene in a safe and socially distant way and sit for senior photos with their caps and gowns.

Ms. Mendez shared a new org chart that was approved by the DOE during the charter renewal process. This includes a restructure with a single principal, an assistant principal and a director of finance and operations. This new model fits into BGLIG's goal of alignment across K-8 and is in line with best practices at many other charter schools. Under this new org chart, the K-8 Principal is Ms. Anabel Castro Lee. The Assistant Principal is Erica Pagan and the Director of Finance and Operations is Mylene Pionilla.

The school leadership team recently launched a staff preference form to understanding for staff next year. At the time of the board meeting almost all staff had completed the form (51 out of 53) and everyone who completed the form indicated that they would be returning for the next school year. The school leadership team used this information to begin planning for the 2021-2022 school year, including finalizing the special populations model. This plan will allow for a more inclusive model that

serves all learners. This will enable us to serve more students with IEPs and who are English language learners. The aim is to create ICT classrooms in K-5.

The report included an update on summer school. BGLIG has not had a summer school program in the past but most schools do. Given how beneficial this option is for students, BGLIG plans to host summer school for the younger students, including students who are new to BGLIG. Many parents have expressed interest and this will be a really helpful support for some of the younger students who have not been engaged in in person learning in over a year or who don't know what it's like to be in-person school. The dates would be July 6 - August 5, Monday - Thursday for 4.5 hours a day. The school leadership team submitted a plan to the UFT hoping to come to an agreement by the time the plan needs to be submitted to the DOE.

Ms. Mendez also shared that BGLIG is preparing to return to in-person learning. The health and safety of the community is the main priority which is why BGLIG has been remote this entire time while every other school in the district has had an in person option. The decision to open now is based on data showing a consistent decrease of COVID-10 clusters around NYC, the low rate of schoolhouse infection rates and the rise of vaccine availability. School has been prepared with PPE for staff and students. Charter schools aren't mandated to test students and staff for COVID 19 on a regular basis but BGLIG will be doing so as an added layer of precaution. The school has contracted with a local clinic that's been working with schools.

IV. General Updates

Hanna gave a renewal update. After conducting classroom visits and interviews with school leadership and staff, analyzing years worth of data and a public hearing, BGLIG's authorizer, the NYCDOE, recommended BGLIG for a three year renewal. The Board of Regents voted on that recommendation, so we're very pleased that BGLIG has received a three year renewal of our charter.

Congratulations to Ms. Mendez and the school staff on their hard work. We're very excited for what the future holds.

V. Committee Updates

Dina shared an update from the UFT negotiations committee. The update included a reading of an email from BGLIG's lawyers to the UFT lawyers urging them to consider BGLIG's proposed collective bargaining agreement and to share it with the teachers.

The academic committee will be meeting next week.

The finance committee will be meeting before the May board meeting and will bring updates.

VI: Resolutions

MOTION TO APPROVE : The Board meeting minutes for the March meetings.

Motioned by: HC
2nd by: CA
Discussions: Since there were no questions about the minutes, the board moved directly to the vote. Victoria abstained from voting because she was absent.

Votes for: DV, MW, KTS **Votes Against**: None **Abstain:** VJR
Motion passes: Yes

VI. Public Session

Three members of the public spoke during the public session.

Two questions were in response to the schools reopening plan. The first was a question about whether or not there would be yellow bus service. Ms. Mendez responded that the school has contacted the DOE to inform them of the school's reopening plans. The DOE will provide bus service based on BGLIG's previous routes for eligible riders.

The second question related to the reopening plan was about the return to school survey and where families could find a link. Ms. Mendez responded that parents were emailed the survey, the survey has been sent via mail, a link to the survey is on the school's website and she also shared the link to the survey in the chat.

A member of the public made a comment to make note of the fact that the original zoom link listed on the website for this board meeting was not working an hour before the meeting. Their concern was that this may have gotten in the way of parents attending the meeting and that it is an issue in regards to public notice. Hanna acknowledged that the link wasn not working earlier in the day and shared that the board updated the link on the website as soon as we became aware of the issue. The link was ready and available in time for the meeting and since the notice was available on the website within an appropriate amount of time, the board still followed the rules of public notice. The board checked in with counsel, before the meeting, and confirmed that we were still in compliance and cleared to host the board meeting.

VII. Executive Session

Motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the topic of collective negotiations made by Hanna at 7:56PM, second by Dina. All in favor. Motion passes.

Motion to exit Executive Session at 8:38pm and return to public session made by Hanna**,** second by Marques. All in favor. Motion passes

VIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Dina at 8:39pm. Marque**s** seconds. All in favor. Meeting is adjourned.