

Broome Street Academy Charter High School

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held in person and by video conference.

Date: Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Notice of the meeting was duly given to members of the Board and the public.

Trustees in attendance: Cathy Aquila, Lauren Blum, Stephanie Durden Barfield, Katie Jaxheimer Agarwal, Jeff Katzin, William Murdock, Susan Notkin, Lynn Schnurnberger, Fernando Snowden-Lorence, Alexandra Wood, and David Zurndorfer

Also present: Lynnette Ford (Head of School), Cameyia Letts (minutes), Kelsey Louie (CEO), and Felicia Rowe.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02pm.

Approval of the Minutes

The Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes of the August 19, 2025 meeting.

Gala Update

Cathy Aquila presented an update on fundraising for the annual Gala.

- A total of \$804k has been raised to date, including \$185k in contributions from the BSA Board.
- The budgeted goal is \$1.35M, and current projections indicate the Gala may raise up to \$1.5M.
- The online auction with Charity Buzz will launch on October 8 and the Development team is continuing to solicit items, such as sporting events tickets, theater tickets, restaurant experiences, travel packages, and meet-and-greet opportunities. Additional auction items may be added through the end of September.

Head of School Report

Lynnette Ford, *Head of School*, presented the September Head of School report, including updates on enrollment, Special Education (SPED), graduation data, and academic outcomes.

Enrollment:

- As of September 17, enrollment for the 2025-2026 school year is 193 students.
- The team continues to recruit scholars:
 - Ruth Caraballo, *Admissions and Parent Coordinator*, is connecting with parents to complete the registration and enrollment process for 14 additional students who were offered seats.

- BSA continues to collaborate with The Door's Career and Education team to explore opportunities for student recruitment.
- Overall attendance for the period was 81%.

Special Education (SPED):

- Of students with IEPs: 40% have a learning disability, 29% have a speech/language impairment, 23% have an emotional disability, and 9% have other health impairments.
- 20% of students are classified as special education students, 10% are English Language Learners, and 81% are economically disadvantaged.
- Eleven students are currently receiving external services until an on-site provider is secured

Mandated Services:

- 91% of students receive Integrated Co-Teaching (ICT) services, 28% receive Special Education Teacher Support Services (SETSS), 46% have a speech therapy mandate, and 81% receive counseling services.

Graduation Data:

- Of the 31 "fifth-year seniors" there were nine additional graduates between July and September, in addition to the six that graduated in June. This represents a 48% graduation rate, compared to 15% in the previous year's cohort of "fifth-year seniors."
- The graduation rate for the 2020 cohort is 95%, compared to the SUNY benchmark of 95% for fifth-year seniors.
- The graduation rate for the 2021 cohort is 76%, compared to the SUNY benchmark of 75% for fourth-year seniors.

Blue Engine: Arc of Professional Development:

- Blue Engine conducted a three-hour meeting with department chairs to review goals and coaching strategies and modeled real-time coaching practices.
- Four hours of classroom observations were completed with promising feedback regarding student engagement.
- Additional observations are scheduled to begin in October, and data is expected to be available for presentation to SUNY during the renewal site visit.
- 35% of BSA's teaching staff are currently certified. A certification pathway will be embedded in professional development.

Academic Overview and Key Metrics

- Promotion rates for first- and second-year students were 50%, compared to the benchmark of 75%.
- Credit recovery for all grade levels will begin in October.

- Challenges were identified in coordinating communication for students participating in the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) who were also scheduled to attend summer school. The process will be refined to ensure students are in good academic standing before participating in SYEP with The Door.
- 81% of students who graduated matriculated into college this year, exceeding the 75% benchmark.
- 44% of seniors demonstrated college preparedness—defined by earning a score of four or higher on Regents exams or participating in SYEP or Work, Learn, Grow—compared to the SUNY benchmark of 75%.
- Regents exam pass rates have improved year over year; however, continued efforts are needed to meet benchmark standards.

Schoolwide updates

- NWEA exams were administered, results will guide assignment to mandatory tutoring
- Child Case Studies have begun to review the most at-risk students, with a goal of developing interventions to support all students.
- As part of a larger effort to create a college-going culture amongst students, there will be a Senior Parade.
- A virtual Back-to-School Night is scheduled for October.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:18pm.