

Mariana Bracetti Academy Charter School

Board of Trustees

April 1, 2020 at 6:00 PM

Held via Zoom due to COVID-19

Present: Arlene Holtz, Jorge Santiago, Ana-Rita Mayol, Celeste Hagerty, Rosalie Guzofsky

Not Present: Jenee Chizick

The Board met in Executive Session at 5:30 to discuss a confidential legal matter.

Arlene Holtz calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM

I. Public Comment

There were no public comments

II. Action Items

a. Approval of Tech Purchase

Angela Villani states that continuity of education plan has been created to provide a more detailed virtual learning process during the extended phase of school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Because some students do not have a device at home, the school is requesting \$20,000 to purchase Chromebooks.

Jorge Santiago motions to approve the Tech Purchase. Ana-Rita Mayol seconds the motion, all vote in favor.

Motion: Jorge Santigo

Ayes: AH, JS, ARM, CH, RG

Second: Ana-Rita Mayol

Nays: None

III. Informational Items

a. School Closure- PDE waiver for 180 school days

The Department of Education (PDE) announced on March 24th that all schools in the commonwealth will remain closed through at least April 6 as a result of the COVID-19 response efforts. Under the new timeline, school buildings would reopen on April 7 for two days to allow school administrators, teachers and other staff time to prepare classrooms, set up cafeterias, schedule transportation and arrange other business operations. Students would return to school on April 9, unless extending the closure is needed in response to the situation with the virus at that time. Because of the timing of Spring Break, the School District of Philadelphia has decided to close all schools until April 13th. Bracetti intends to follow this schedule unless an extended closure is needed. This information has been communicated to our students and their families through auto calls and social media updates. PDE will not penalize districts/schools that fail to meet the minimum 180-day requirements as a result of COVID-19 response efforts, and they will provide a simplified form that schools can use to report any shortfall in days or hours.

b. Continuity of Learning Plan- language

During school closure, teachers and counselors are continuing to provide resources to keep students engaged. At this time, these online resources are not intended to replicate in-school instruction, but are designed to keep students engaged as learners by maintaining or extending their learning. Elementary teachers are using Class Dojo, while middle and high school teachers are using Google Classroom for this communication. Learning packets for the first two weeks of closure have been available on our website, and hard copies are available for pick up at our grab and go meal site. A technology survey is being conducted with families to determine the possibility of online learning. Any continuity of learning plan will meet the needs of all students, with particular attention to free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities and English as a second language (ESL) services for English Learners (EL).

c. Construction Status

Due to Governor Wolf's March 19th order to close all non-life-sustaining businesses in Pennsylvania, the annex renovation has been placed on hold until the order has been lifted. At the moment, it is difficult to foresee the impact of this order on our project timeline. We are weighing several options in the event that this impacts the 2020-2021 school year.

d. Bond Refinancing Status

The economy has taken a turn and this directly affects the bond market. We are continuing with the work and our weekly calls with the goal to adhere to our original timeline. We are discussing alternative options should the bond market not be feasible in June.

Jorge Santiago motions to adjourn the meeting. Rosalie Guzofsky seconds the motion, all vote in favor.