

BOSTON PREP BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

MIT Endicott House - The Den, 80 Haven Street Dedham, MA

February 2, 2024

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

DRAFT

Trustee Present: Kim Borchert, David Berkley, Amelia Cheers, Sarah James, Josh Johnson, Bryant Jones, Andrew Kaplan, Vanessa Lipschitz, Claire Newton, Arivee Vargas and David Wolff

School Staff Present: Meekerley Sanon, Brenda Jones, Tyler Martin, Anders Peterson, Rob Rametti, Vanessa Shiu

I. Open Meeting Protocol

- Kim Borchert, board chair, called the meeting to order at 8:13 AM and provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

II. Vote Approval of Minutes

MOTION to Approve - Consent Agenda

- The December 8 meeting minutes.

Motion, seconded, all in favor

Vote Approved

III. Public Comment

- The chair invited attendees for public comments. No comments were raised.

IV. Icebreaker

- An ice breaker was conducted to open the retreat and initiate trustee engagement.

V. School Update

SY24 Priorities and Initiatives

- Meekerley Sanon presented on the four priority areas for SY24:
 - College ready academics
 - The board looked at the iReady data and other school outcomes and persistence data on a disaggregated basis.
 - Discussion ensued about academic performance via iReady, including questions about how to engage with teachers about buying into the platform. It has illustrated data that shows areas of improvement.
 - The first testing was administered in the fall and the second testing was administered in the winter. Highest improvement shown in the middle school.
 - Persistence
 - Questions were raised about the 80/100% college application and matriculation.

- 2.1 - 100% of Boston Prep seniors will be on track to graduate Boston Prep on time.
- 2.2 - More than 80% of Boston Prep seniors will apply to college and matriculate in the fall.
- There was a strong sentiment from the board – and staff present – about ensuring 100% applications and acceptances; matriculation is a different measure/conversation.
- It was agreed upon to keep standards of college applications to 100%.
- There were questions about staffing: personnel hiring and mission fit; staff culture; and resistance to reaffirming these commitments/goals.
- There was a point about the destabilizing nature of asking teachers to adapt to the new curriculum.
 - For SY25 hiring, Human Capital along with academic managers are prepared to hire a talented workforce that is align with our vision, mission and core values.
- Student Culture
 - The high school has made tremendous improvement in student, and hallway culture. The middle school is instituting new tactics to make progress in its student culture.
- Organizational Stability
 - There was conversation about enrollment and keeping an eye on demographic and district trends.
 - There was an update on ESSER funding ending, and the school’s plan to address those gaps.

VI. Strategic Planning

- Meekerley Sanon provided an update on the school’s strategic planning process; to include the framework, timeline and end goal.
- Groups briefly broke out to discuss ARVS, organizational growth, and the extent of our support to graduates.

VII. Board Announcements

- Originally, the DESE charter renewal decision was to be provided on Feb 2, however the decision notification was postponed to February 16.

ACTION ITEMS FOR CHARTER RENEWAL.

- Review the Charter Renewal Visit Summary of Review in individual Committee meetings.
- Prepare questions to share during the next Board meeting.
- **Next Task:** Create updated Accountability Plan Metrics for submittal to DESE.

VIII. Reflections

- Trustees went around the table to provide their commitments and dedication to Boston Prep.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next board meeting.

List of Materials

- December 8, Meeting Minutes
- Brookings Institute Article “The ESSER Fiscal Cliff”
- Consulting Protocol
- Boston Prep Strategic Plan Draft
- DESE Board Responsibilities
- SY23 Boston Prep Bellwether Board Effectiveness Survey
- Board Retreat Slides

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM