

Bridgewater Academy Charter School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 13 March 2025

Location: Virtual & Bridgewater Academy

Time: Meeting convened at 5:30 pm.

Attendees:

- Sherry Pinto
 - Judy Edwards
 - Marissa Levisen
 - Alex Martinez
 - Russel McDowell
 - Ashleigh Wade
 - Roxanne Craft
 - Amanda Tawney
 - Anne Toler
 - Ashley Pellecchia
 - Brandy Johnson
 - Heather Kirby
 - K. Eaddy
 - Nicole McDowell
 - Tara McNeil
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Roxanne Craft.

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading of BWA's Vision Statement

2. Public Comments:

Moved to public comment at 5:31 by Roxanne Craft.

Tara McNeil states no public comment.

Nicole McDowell states no public comment

Amanda Tawney states no public comment

Alex Martinez states no public comment.

Ms. Toler states no public comment.

Ashley Pellecchia made no comment.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Ashleigh Wade, seconded by Judy Edwards, to approve the agenda as presented.

- **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Judy Edwards, seconded by K. Eaddy, to approve the minutes from the January 2025 meeting.

5. Reports

- **Financial Report:**
 - Heather Kirby presenting. Cash on hand below benchmark. Salaries & benefits above benchmark. Over budgeted salaries & benefits for the year. Net income above estimated budget.
 - \$268,000 total cash balance
 - P&L: Currently waiting on 27% of federal revenue. We should receive that in the next month.
 - Total revenue: \$1,371,826.19
 - A few categories remain over their budgeted amount. Maintenance, elementary activities, and board activities.
 - Total expenses: \$1,368,178.41
- Dr. Pinto mentions that the county has been late on sending funds for several months now.

Corando Butler joined the meeting.

- Roxanne Craft mentions that there is only 16% maintenance budget remaining. She wonders if we have plans for big projects over the summer. Dr. Pinto replies that there are no large scale projects planned for the remainder of this fiscal year.
- Brandy Johnson comments asking about category 254, liability insurance. She states it seems to be causing a problem in that section and asks how it differs from property insurance.

- Dr. Pinto remarks that the proviso stops in January but we're currently hopeful it will be picked back up.
 - Heather Kirby remarks that schools were supposed to be exempt but we currently are not. That is why those fees remain in the budget. States that we are hoping legislation will provide extra funding or will not apply the increase to schools. States that this is in the correct spot but it's underfunded.
 - Heather Kirby discusses the budget for the 2025-2026 school year. Considered 45 day headcount and 135 day headcount. Plan to use 135 day headcount as that will cause a difference of over \$14,000 a month. Salary budget 65%, student teacher ratio is 9.81.
 - Revenue remains similar.
 - SC legislators has not fully passed the upcoming education budget yet.
 - Dr. Pinto has extended additional funding for next year's salaries.
 - We are projected for more income next year than this year.
 - Increased Elementary programs budget and removed budget from unused areas.
 - Increased budget to cover floor replacements.
 - Staffing based on 3% raises. Can try other raise percentages.
 - Dr. Pinto mentions that more students equals more money.
 - Heather Kirby mentions that this a rough draft based on the previous year. Budget debt will remain in the positive which is a good sign.
 - Dr. Pinto mentions we haven't received ERC credits, but Heather Kirby has had other schools receive them recently. Hopefully we will receive it soon.
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Roxanne Craft asks Ms. Butler if she has any public comment.

Ms. Butler states no public comment.

6. Principal's Report:

- **Enrollment:**
 - 137 enrollment
 - New student began this week and a new student starting next week.
 - March 30th is day 135 (for funding purposes)
- **2004-2025 Calendar Approval**
 - Horry County put out final calendar for next school year.
 - Requests board to approve following Horry County calendar for next school year.
 - Judy Edwards makes a motion to accept alining with the calendar. Marissa Levison seconded.
 - Passed unanimously.
- **YMCA Partnership**
 - No budget for Summer Impact program this year
 - YMCA reached out. Dr. Pinto plans to put up a Bridgewater table at their community outreach.

- YMCA has requested to rent the school for their summer camps this summer. It would bring money in. However, it would disrupt the deep summer cleaning and have people on the new floors.
 - It would help make new people aware of the school.
 - Their cap would be based on the space.
 - Dr. Pinto remarks that they would spend their morning time in our building and the afternoon they would leave for field trips.
 - Roxanne Craft suggests it due to community connections and tap into families.
 - Mr. Franklin has reached out to the floor people to get a quote and timeline.
 - Mr. McDowell requests information about the square footage and material of the floors. He comments that if there is damage under the floor it may cost more due to the need for new plywood.
 - Roxanne Craft mentions the potential benefits of working with the YMCA for Bridgewater families as well as the Y
 - **PR Campaign | Updates & Data**
 - Keeping a spreadsheet with contact information from people reaching out to the school
 - Nineteen families have reached out
 - Data from Grand Strand Today available. 160,000 digital impression. CTR .12% 143 visits to our website, feedback positive
 - **Surveys**
 - Title I Surveys are on the website. Dr. Pinto has requested Ms. McNeil and Ms. Martinez to add information for the climate surveys for parents online. Suggesting a coffee & donuts morning to help parents finish the surveys.
 - Students who arrived after 100 days can not fill out the climate survey.
 - Teachers and students filling them out at school.
 - **Items for Executive Session**
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7. Old Business

- **Welcome Russell McDowell to the Board of Directors**
- **FY26 Budget & Budget Committee**
 - Ashleigh Wade mentions that Andrew Wade would be willing to volunteer as an advisor for budget committee
- **SimpliSafe Emergency Response**
- **Board Alliance Trainings/Webinars February and March**
 - Webinars and trainings very helpful
 - Ms. Martinez joined as board liaison

7. New Business

- **BWA Marketing/Events Update**
 - Spring Fling Coming up

- Dr. Pinto states April 4th is the date and the SIT meeting is tomorrow to discuss details
- Roxanne Craft suggests YMCA table at spring fling
 - Dr. Pinto says they already have
- **FY26 Budget & Budget Committee**
- **Board Member Terms 2025**
 - Ms. Martinez as board liaison making sure these are calendered.
- **PE Year Round**
 - 6th grade has requested of the board to have PE Year Round
 - Roxanne Craft mentions the studies that shows movement and physical activity helps with happiness, health, and behavioral improvement
 - Ashleigh Wade mentions her children have requested the same
 - Roxanne Craft states had another parent mention it to her at the Boathouse Read Across America Event
 - Dr. Pinto mentions new legislation is moving through chambers that requires 90 minutes of health and education required a week.
 - Dr. Pinto mentions the logistics of scheduling.
 - Ms. Martinez shares how it was previously done. That students would have 1 day of each special and 1 half day of one of the specials. And this schedule rotated. One issue of this schedule was using so much time to move students between specials. Expresses frustrations of previous teachers with not having enough time each week to execute curriculums.
 - Ms. Toler expresses that the change happened because kids were unable to progress because they only saw them once a week. The Pacer Test is supposed to be on endurance and needs daily running.
 - Ms. Martinez expresses concern in the previous situation that they lacked respect for students and parents due to lack of results.
 - Ashleigh Wade asked if a MWF, T/Th class schedule would be possible.
 - Ms. Martinez comments on the difficulty of uniform under that type of schedule.
 - Roxanne Craft states that she believes we're doing a disservice to children to only having them moving and in Physical Education one semester a month. She states many parents looking for alternative education are interested in arts, music, pe etc...
 - Dr. Pinto states she is uncertain currently what the division between education and physical movement would be required under the 90 minutes a week. Physical Education has strict standards that must be met.
 - Ms. Toler states at one point we had four clusters and four related arts teachers.
 - Judith Edwards states we have a strong group of teachers on the SIT team and she believes they will address these concerns
 - Dr. Pinto mentions the difference after morning mile is drastic and noted by teachers. Dr. Pinto acknowledges that the will of the board is to have as much movement or physical education as possible.
 - Ms. Martinez states that middle school misses a large chunk of special time due to SC Ready and other testing which legally we're required to do. States that special teachers see students less during the testing months.
 - Roxanne Craft asks if there are requirements for movement with current standards.
 - Dr. Pinto states there are recommendations but not obligations, but they are recommendations based on age.
 - Roxanne Craft requests the current recommendations for movement

- Dr. Pinto mentions the Friday fitness component, additional 20 minutes of activity for every student on Friday
- Discussion of middle school on 90 minute class schedules and younger classes on 45 minute class schedules.
- Dr. Pinto clarifies that it's more complicated with a K-8 schedule.
- **SimpliSafe Update**
 - Roxanne Craft asked if Dr. Pinto was able to connect with SimpliSafe
 - Dr. Pinto states she emailed twice but did not receive a response
 - Roxanne Craft states she will reconnect with SimpliSafe
- **Music**
 - Ashleigh Wade mentions Monique Perkins teaches an orchestra class/club for Academy of Hope and requests if the board would be interested in her speaking with Monique about that
 - Dr. Pinto mentions potentially having music as a Friday club option as well as a possible after school program.
 - Ashleigh Wade comments the importance of regular practice for instruments.
 - Dr. Pinto expresses desire to have a potential art teacher in the future.

8. Approval to Move to Executive Session

Motion by Judy Edwards, seconded by Russel McDowell, to move into executive session at 7:09 pm.

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Russel McDowell, seconded by Marissa Levisen.

- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23pm.

Minutes submitted by: Ashleigh Wade, Secretary

Date of submission: 13 March 2025