Boston Arts Academy Board Meeting
June 17th 2025

Agenda

3:30 Board Gathers

3:45 Welcome & Call To Order (Robert Chambers, Chair)

- Approve March 18th meeting minutes
- Calendar Review: Next year's board meeting dates - Recommendation for In-Person
    - September 16, 2025 3:30-5:00
    - September 30, 2025 Board Orientation for New Members
    - December 16, 2025 3:30-5:00 - Meeting at Yard House
    - February 3, 2026 3:30-5:00
    - March 17, 2026 3:30-5:00
    - June 16, 2026 3:30-5:00

Open School Site Council Meeting

3:50 School Reports

- Head of School Report (10 minutes)
- Student Government Report (5 minutes)
- BTU Report (5 minutes)
- Family Council Report (5 minutes)
- BAAF Report (5 minutes)

4:20 Committee Updates

- Joint Governance and Nominating Committee
    - Departing board members
    - Proposed names for vote
        - Chair
        - Vice Chair
        - New Member
- Executive Committee
    - Update on Strategic Planning
    - Joint BAA/BAAF Board Meeting Date
- Finance Committee
    - No report

4:50 Open Public Comment

- **Closing & Next Steps**

Minutes

In Attendance: (the roll was called):

Board Members: Sonia Alleyne, Myran Parker-Brass, David Bogan, Krystal Banfield, Carole Charnow, Kelly Brilliant, Marie St. Fleur, Linda Champion, Amber Torres, Rainbow Chen, Raul Garcia, Nicole Mullen, Tyrone Sutton, Ayeesha Lane, Stephanie Ruiz, Weddee Henry, Randi Ellingboe, Barbara Rodriguez, Michael Bradley

Non Board Members: Denella Clark (BAAF), Claudia Toole (BAAF), Rebecca Brannon

NB: Robert Chambers was unable to attend, therefore Krystal Banfield (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting

Dr. Krystal Banfield opened the meeting

- Minutes – Ms. Marie St. Fleur moved to accept the minutes of the March 18th meeting; Ms. Sonia Alleyne seconded. All voted in favor
- The Board Meeting Calendar was presented (dates above)

School Site Council

- **Head of School Report**
    - Mr. Tyrone Sutton thanked Dr. David Bogan and Dr. Krystal Banfield for the graduation at Berklee
    - BAA closed the year with 33 shows!! In addition, they held the first-ever Spring Arts Festival
    - The school is currently planning the calendar for next year
    - Congratulations to Mr. Michael Bradley for the Spiritual Ensemble at Carnegie Hall and for being nominated for a Stellar Award (Gospel recognition night – Nashville in August).
        - It was an amazing experience for the students to perform in Carnegie Hall
        - Also, the Ensemble competed in Atlanta and took home multiple awards!!
    - *o* There is a partnership with the Huntington Theatre. On July 10-26 at BAA there will be a production of *Kufre N'Quay* (12 BAA students are in the show)
    - *o* The SY25-26 Budget is almost finalized
        - First round was done with BPS in December and approved in January
        - Second round will be approved by BAA Foundation Board in June
        - Total operating budget: $10,084, 297 (From BPS: $7,546, 484; From BAAF: $2,497,182)
    - *o* Mr. Sutton summarized the overarching goals for the strategic plan for SY25-26
        - Focus resources and decisions on the overarching priority of student success
        - Provide teachers with opportunities for academic, artistic and professional growth
        - Research and propose future BAA leadership and organizational structures
        - Investing in Teacher Professional Growth and Inclusion (2 new positions)
            - Arts curriculum and Instructional Coach
            - Academic Inclusion Coach – Madeleine Leckie has been hired
    - *o* Strategic Planning
        - Phase 1 is Completed, Phase 2 is in progress
        - Ms. Marie St. Fleur asked about how the plan would address an issue that came up in the strategic planning interviews, which was that the school was very strong in Arts but needed more focus on other subjects such as Science. There was discussion, during which Mr. Raul Garcia mentioned that he was concerned that the Humanities department retain its autonomy

        - There was also some discussion about the impact of AI on curriculum. Ms. Sonia Alleyne gave the perspective on AI from her position at Suffolk University. Mr. Raul Garcia explained that there are very strict policies about the use of AI in his department. There was a broad discussion about the pros and cons of AI.
    - Yonder Pouches will be implemented in SY25-26 – (Schools are using these to control cell phone use)

- **BTU Report**
    - Ms. Nicole Mullen presented the overview
        - The BTU ratified a new contract
            - They negotiated an increase of 9% over 3 years with some teacher members receiving up to 11%
            - They centered lowest paid worker categories (e.g.: paraprofessionals)
            - There will be a couple of more half days for professional development
        - Inclusion Planning Teams
            - The planning team was discussed in the contract – added two family members
            - Composition: 5 Elected BTU members; 5 appointed positions; 2 family caregiver positions
            - Mr. Sutton explained this is a very important team and that they recommended the two new positions mentioned earlier
- **Family Council Report**
    - Ms. Ayeesha Lane said Family Council has had a great year: Teacher Appreciation went well thanks to the members!
    - Also, they gave away three $750 scholarships to seniors
    - Two senior parents will be leaving. There was a huge thank you to:
        - Ms. Stephanie Ruiz
        - Dr. Barbara Rodriguez
- **BAAF Report**
    - Ms. Denella Clark gave the report:
        - She thanked Mr. Sutton and Mr. Bradley and the BAA staff
        - Some Board members are terming off – 11 new Board members will be joining
        - FY25 will be a record-breaking year – they have raised almost $7 million; a record for BAAF
        - Campaign closing event will be on June 27th with Mayor Wu
        - Will continue with college scholarships this year
            - Ms. Clark asked for recommendations of a BAA alum to work with BAAF on tracking college scholarship recipients
        - Ms. Clark mentioned several summer events
        - October 23rd is BAA Honors - Melissa Manchester will open
        - Goal was to get the endowment to $10 million. That has not been reached yet

- **Committee Reports**
    - **Governance and Nominating Committee**
        - Dr.. Banfield thanked Mr. Robert Chambers for his service as Board Chair (he will remain on the Board for one more year). And Ms. Myran Parker-Brass was thanked for her service on the Board and as Past Chair; gifts were presented
        - Ms. Alleyne presented the votes:

- Votes
    - Dr. Krystal Banfield for Board Chair
    - Ms. Carole Charnow as Vice-Chair
        - Ms. Sonia Alleyne made the motion; Ms. Marie St. Fleur seconded
        - The roll was called -all present were in favor: Sonia Alleyne, Myran Parker-Brass, David Bogan, Krystal Banfield, Carole Charnow, Kelly Brilliant, Marie St. Fleur, Linda Champion, Amber Torres, Rainbow Chen, Raul Garcia, Nicole Mullen, Tyrone Sutton, Ayeesha Lane, Stephanie Ruiz, Weddee Henry, Randi Ellingboe, Barbara Rodriguez, Michael Bradley

    - Carmelo Aresco
        - Ms. Sonia Alleyne presented Carmelo as a new Board Member to replace Myran Parker – Brass
        - Ms. Alleyne moved the vote, Mr. Bradley seconded
        - The roll was called -all present were in favor: Sonia Alleyne, Myran Parker-Brass, David Bogan, Krystal Banfield, Carole Charnow, Kelly Brilliant, Marie St. Fleur, Linda Champion, Amber Torres, Rainbow Chen, Raul Garcia, Nicole Mullen, Tyrone Sutton, Ayeesha Lane, Stephanie Ruiz, Weddee Henry, Randi Ellingboe, Barbara Rodriguez, Michael Bradley

- **Executive Committee Updates**
    - There will be a joint BAA/BAAF Retreat in the Fall
    - We had already heard the update on Strategic Planning
    - Claudia Toole introduced herself; she is the new Clerk of BAAF
    - A new Clerk will be hired by BAA this summer
    - Ms. Clark suggested that the Board Chairs and Leaders of both BAA and BAAF should meet quarterly – Dr. Banfield will work on this
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- **Public Comments**
    - There were no public comments

- **Dr. Banfield closed the meeting at 5pm**

Submitted by Carole Charnow
6/18/25