

SLT Minute 2025 05 05 approved online July 2025



School Leadership Team Minutes

Monday, May 5, 2025

Attendance

Core Members:

Principal Brian Pew (present)

UFT Chapter Chair Melanie Pflaum (present)

PTA Co-President: Ursula Schindler (present)

CBO Bard College:

Valerie Thomson (present)

UFT Members:

Kyung Cho (present)

Ryan Vera (present)

Annie Shields (present)

Parents:

Yr II (Early College)

Primary: Cindy Hsiao (present)

Alternate: Rosemarie Bray (Absent)

Yr I (Early College)

Primary: Marie Edesess (Present)

Alternate: Todd Stevens (Present)

10th Grade

Primary: Miri Navasky (present)

Alternate: Kay Moffett (absent)

9th Grade

Primary: Abhijit Sengupta (absent)

Alternate: Deborah Levitzky (absent)

Students:

Yr II

Primary: Sahir Subhi (absent)

Alternate: None

Yr I

Primary: Ivy Laidlaw-Morris (present)

Alternate: Wyatt Shone (absent)

10th Grade:

Primary: Clarke Greene (absent)

Alternate: Manni Chen (absent)

9th Grade:


Primary: Dallas Chrisiaanse (present)

Alternate: Sumaiya Mobarak (absent)

Guests:

Parent Coordinator Carol Turitz (present)

Agenda/Minutes

1. Welcome to Principal Pew! (Started at 4:45 pm)
2. Proposed signing of Revised By-Laws
3. Approve Minutes from April Meeting (SLT Training Reminder)
4. CEP Sub Committee reports- Teams working on revising the goals share their progress and thoughts.
 - a. Complete info:  SLT_CEP Drafting
5. SLT Website update
 - a. Need SLT by-laws which have been requested
 - b. SLT chairs need to post all approved minutes for the year and going forward.
 - c. SLT chairs need to post all agendas for the year. And going forward, the agendas need to be shared with the community 10 days before the actual meeting
 - d. Need updated CEP to be linked
 - e. PDFs that Cindy created of past minutes need to say "approved" on them and posted. Going forward- chairs need to decide whether to collaborate with our ino

house tech person or Charlotte Donovan from the network to get agendas and minutes posted in a timely fashion.

6. Reports ([at this link](#))
 - a. Student Report
 - b. Principal Report
 - c. Faculty Report
 - d. Parent Report
 - e. Administrative Report
7. Unfinished business
 - Clubs, still frustration among families - is there a way to start more strongly next year.
 - Advisory - next year.
 - Open House question – received communication from 2 parents of 7th graders at different schools starting to think about high schools and that said they were given a link to Bard Queens open houses but not Manhattan and wanted to visit. <https://bhsec.bard.edu/queens/admission/open-house-and-information-sessions/> Does Bard Manhattan have similar - trying to promote but couldn't find anything on website.

Start time: 4:45

PRESENT:

School Staff: Kyung, Melanie, Ryan, Annie, Brian

Parents: Miri, Ursula, Todd, Cindy, Marie

Students: Dallas, Ivy

CBO Bard College: Valeri Thomson

Parent Coordinator: Carol Turitz

School Leadership Team Agenda

- **Intro from Dr Pew:**
 - Town Hall with 10th graders
 - Hiring of admin top of mind and schedule
- **April minutes:**
 - Group approved
- **SLT Training:**
 - Ivy asked group to independently complete SLT training on their own time, linked to April minutes
 - Can bill up to three hours
- **Website/Minutes:**
 - Out of compliance because minutes are not posted to website
 - Cindy added separate tabs to this document based on day because overwhelming if all in one page
 - Tab on BHSEC website for SLT

- Needs to move out of Cindy's google drive, Brian will transfer over
 - Brian has created SLT folder in DOE Google drive
 - Add [minutes](#) PDF
 - In house tech-person (Jose?) connects with Charlotte
- **Bylaws:**
 - Christina typed in bylaws virtually during meeting when we voted to move from 4:30pm start
 - Melanie moved to discuss bylaws for school year next year at another meeting
 - The core members (PTA president, UFT chapter chair and the principal) signed a new set of By-Laws. Four parent representatives expressed concerns both in writing and at the meeting because there was not a thorough process of review of the changes. The specific parent request was for a side by side review of the previous by-laws and the changes that were made with an opportunity to revise and build consensus. Core members assured that this process would occur at the onset of the SLT in the 2025-2026 school year.
- **Committees:**
 - Marie mentioned that many groups have met
 - Val reviewed template related to goal setting to streamline process in drafting CEP
 - Groups worked together and drafted in [SLT_CEP Drafting](#)
- **Priority 5:** done within two weeks
 - Needs to gather more data but can put in xx%
 - Goal for curriculum night in-person with translators available; potential for potluck/community event; helpful to have OSIS number for students
 - Potential for conferences in person or one day in-person one day remote
- **Reports:**
 - **Students:**
 - Student union has been stagnant, hard to take attendance
 - Are there mechanisms where people can be removed from SU?
 - Student spirit is lacking; very academically-focused school
 - Thinking about how to reinvigorate school spirit
 - Trying to get QR codes up in hallway so students can provide feedback about what they would like to see at end of year to end on a high note
 - Students love opps to interact with teachers: field day
 - Meeting on Thursday, put a call out to SU members to please attend
 - "Has been a rough year"
 - Everyone is "head down in work", no grade-specific reports
 - Marie identified that it is hard for students to self-police, bring in advisor
 - Cindy can forward communications from Brooklyn Tech as example
 - Potential to move meetings to every week
 - 5 students per grade, should be 20 in room; typically only about 5
 - Struggle to get people in room; 9th grade elections sometimes happen mid-year
 - Brian will plan to attend next meeting and share things he has seen/done
 - Ivy specified that Jess Aaron sends weekly email and attends meetings
 - Todd: What power do you have, what decisions would you like to make about this school?
 - Ivy said SU typically plans dances but wants to have more impact
 - Miri said lack of larger desire in school to attend dances
 - Brian mentioned idea of tricking students into coming; ex: DJ is present after school and students organically attend

- Melanie: If you bring your group of friends than it is cool
- Brian: structure for peer accountability; who are students accountable to
- Todd: Y2s will self-organize lots of events, what lessons can we learn from how Bard students already organize themselves
- Ivy: Student union cannot necessarily organize assassin or beach day; what is walking the line between fun and school sanctioned
- Balance of edgy and allowed
- Faculty:
 - EOY schedule: Symposium Day; June 16th
 - Tug of war example: element of surprise
 - Kyung: Y2s would all go to Dia Beacon; building more opportunities like that into curriculum
 - College trips used to be overnight; Carol said Ms Chekies could speak more but there were behaviors that were not good for our school
 - Brian: building more tradition, "in Y2 we always do this thing"; "all 9th graders get to experience this" (Y2 trip to Dia Beacon)
 - Established by school leadership and teachers
 - Ursula: senior sunrise
 - Todd: NEST vs Bard boys soccer, get school involved in signature game
 - Ursula: General feedback from NYC kids about no school spirit
 - Cindy: Need field permits
 - Todd: in "holy war" about fields, could play at Baruch
 - Need to move games closer to school for spirit - signature games.
 - Brian: school spirit is his jam, cares about it a lot, be more thorough in conversation with SU; getting permits now for next year
 - More optimism about leadership among faculty, 6th change and 5th leader in 3 years; Ursula echoed sentiment from parents
- Principal:
 - AP search is on, major priority
 - Communication is major project, cannot generate unity without this as a starting place
 - Next meeting provide some feedback on communication
 - Amazing time with 10th graders, excited to bring students together in groups, students were participatory, self-organized, competitive, followed rules, just need to water the seed
- Parent:
 - New hardware on sale
 - \$8000 on Bard bash
 - Thank you to Carol
 - Need parent lead (Y2) to sit on nominating committee aside from Ursula and board to create slate of candidates; will reach out via formal school channels, Brian can link to newsletter
 - Marie: concerns from parents uneven communication about CTO stuff
 - Google classroom exists and parents should have access; huge groups of parents are not on it
 - Creating lots of anxiety
 - Ursula: concerns about course catalog sent out, goes back to selection process in advisory
 - Marie: let parents see course selection process, add parents to email related to course guide
 - Ursula: CTO and college guidance, add Google folder with syllabi

- Cindy: add to Friday communication email; all students have different relationships with parents
- Marie: Post that course guide is out, more is more
- Kyung: Course guide used to have fake courses; students would create based on a teacher
- Marie: link to Bardvark in email communications