

Minutes – For BCCS Board of Directors Meeting, March 18, 2026, held virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 5:48 p.m. by Annie Scott

In Attendance:

Board: Olivia DeGennaro, Bryan Lewis, Ana Rosa, Carrie Scalzo, Annie Scott, Don Thompson, Maria Vega

Staff: Nancy Landona, Laura Main, Orla Mokriski-Schley, Dr. Barbara Ruggiero

Guest: N/A

Absent: Anthony Gay (EX), Dr. Joe Johnson

Public comments: None at this time.

Consent Items:

- Minutes from February 2026 were distributed via email.
- Financials from January 2026 were distributed via email.

Motion to approve the consent items: Olivia DeGennaro; 2nd – Carrie Scalzo.

Motion carries with 7 votes in Favor, 0 votes Against, 0 votes Abstain. Approved

Governance:

- Board Member update
 - Two resignations
 - Subira Gordon - Chair of the BCCS Board Annie Scott, regrettably and regretfully accepted the resignation and wish her well.
 - Kristian Rose - regretfully and regrettably accepted the notice of resignation.
 - Discuss the potential sources where we can network and invite other community leaders.
 - The board agreed on the need to recruit community members, teacher representation, and parent representation to fill vacant positions.
 - There is a need for individuals with law, real estate, and medical experience.
 - Reminder to complete Mindtrust survey.

Facilities updates

- Nancy reported on receiving 3 quotes for repaving. Best option at \$28K for milling and restriping.
 - Deadline to complete by April break.
 - Project will be funded through a combination of cash flow and the DRIP grant.

Motion to approve the recommendation for milling and paving at 28K: Don Thompson; 2nd – Ana Rosa.

Motion carries with 7 votes in Favor, 0 votes Against, 0 votes Abstain. Approved

- Future replacement of the entire boiler system will cost approximately \$135K.
 - 1st HVAC contractor recommends both boiler replacements at a cost of \$135k
 - 2nd person quote – says its only 8yrs old and shouldn't be replaced yet. Parts can be ordered via factory which is why it takes a while. \$76k

- In terms of heating it is stable for the moment.

Healthy Food Certification 2026-2027 motions:

Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of HFC

This vote is required for all BOEs that participate in the NSLP. Each BOE must vote “yes” or “no” to participate in the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). The motion and BOE-approved meeting minutes must include the exact motion language below:

Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Brass City Charter School Board of Directors certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion to approve the consent items: Don Thomspen; 2nd – Olivia DeGennaro.

Motion carries with 7 votes in Favor, 0 votes Against, 0 votes Abstain. Approved

Vote 2: Required vote for combined food and beverage exemptions for BOEs choosing healthy food option of HFC

This vote is required for all BOEs that vote “yes” to participate in the healthy food option. The motion and BOE-approved meeting minutes must reflect a “yes” or “no” vote to allow food exemptions using the exact motion language below.

The Brass City Charter School Board of Directors will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

Motion to approve the consent items: Don Thomson; 2nd – Bryan Lewis.

Motion carries with 7 votes in Favor, 0 votes Against, 0 votes Abstain. Approved

Reviewed the proposed academic calendar 2026/2027

Motion to approve the proposed academic calendar for the 2026-2027 as presented: Don Thompson; 2nd – Ana Rosa.

Motion carries with 7 votes in Favor, 0 votes Against, 0 votes Abstain. Approved

CT Grown for CT Kids Grant Award:

Awarded 13K to fund raised garden beds, fresh produce from local farm, and farm trips for grade Pre-K through grade 3 over the next two years.

BCCS staff members, including Jeff will plot out what can be planted and where the beds can go.

Charter School Development -Request for material change

- Discussed the possibility of another school.
- Explored two options
 - 1st option - Lily Zhao participate in a MindTrust fellowship program to help write the charter, and a more immediate opportunity to prepare for a possible upcoming RFP from the state.
 - Mindtrust will have a meeting in May to present their chosen fellows
 - 2nd option - the state issues how many students we want and so we can petition the state for material change of the charter.
 - BCCS submitted the request for material change to State of CT 3/17/2026 for 160 more kids. Under the same charter
 - Proposal included another campus so pk-4, 5-8 in another.
 - Have to find a potential location.

Lottery took place 3/17/2026:

- Total of 315 applicants
- 45 students admitted
- 36 pre-k
- 270 students remain on the waitlist.
- Notices went out yesterday and most have responded yes.
- Good turnout of families to watch the lottery take place compared to previous years.

Other Business:

- Laura says everything is rocking and rolling and students and teachers are working hard
 - SBAC testing is coming up in May
 - Performance-based learning in June
 - June 26, last day of school
- Orla
 - Kids are working hard, and teachers
 - Parent conferences are on Monday

Budget for new school year in the works.

Meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

Motion to adjourned – Don Thompson; 2nd – Ana Rosa.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at 5:30 pm via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by: Ana Rosa