

Briya Public Charter School
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 11th, 2026, 6:10-7:30 p.m. on Zoom

This meeting is governed by the Open Meetings Act. Please address any questions or complaints arising under this meeting to the Office of Open Government at opengovoffice@dc.gov.

Board members present

Doris Garay, *Chair*
Stuart Butler, *Vice Chair*
Geovanna Izurieta, *Treasurer*
Dimelsa Zelaya, *Secretary*
Brittany Pope
Cara Sklar
Charlotte Baer
Jennifer Huang
Brenda Martinez
Bill Bletzinger

Staff members present

Christie McKay, *Executive Director*
Joel Goering, *Director of Finance*
Judy Kittleson, *NEDP & Adult Education
Manager*
Stella Wang, *Board Liaison*

Board members absent

Carolina Hernandez

Quorum was reached.

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 6:21pm.

2. Approval of minutes

- December 10th Briya Board Meeting Minutes
 - ***Stuart Butler*** moved to approve the December 10th, 2025 Briya Board meeting minutes; ***Geovanna Izurieta*** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Roll call:
 - Doris Garay – yes
 - Stuart Butler – yes
 - Geovanna Izurieta – yes
 - Dimelsa Zelaya – yes
 - Brittany Pope – yes
 - Cara Sklar – yes
 - Charlotte Baer – yes
 - Jennifer Huang – yes
 - Brenda Martinez – yes
 - Bill Bletzinger – yes

3. Director's Report

- The Director's report will be covered in the closed session.

2. Development Committee - reported by Christie McKay

- New board candidate nomination: Alejandra Sandoval (vote needed)
 - **Bill Bletzinger** moved to approve *Alejandra Sandoval as a new interim board member until September 2026*; **Cara Sklar** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Roll call:
 - Doris Garay – yes
 - Stuart Butler – yes
 - Geovanna Izurieta – yes
 - Dimelsa Zelaya – yes
 - Brittany Pope – yes
 - Cara Sklar – yes
 - Charlotte Baer – yes
 - Jennifer Huang – yes
 - Brenda Martinez – yes
 - Bill Bletzinger – yes
- Retreat update
 - We will have a half-day board retreat on March 14th and keep the April board meeting on the same date.
 - Nancy Ban from Mary's Center will be able to join part of the retreat. We hope to talk a bit about Alliance and its impact on healthcare for Briya students.

3. Academic Committee - reported by Judy Kittleson

- Enrollment update
 - Successful count day in October of 770. Registration and outreach team are working on our referral initiative to support term 4 enrollment, with a goal of 250 referrals.
- Adult Ed update
 - Last month AE Manager Kathleen Patton gave a presentation to Academic Committee about the Adult Education department.
 - Judy gave an overview of what Kathleen shared, including updates on new workforce class offerings this year, Child Development classes, Hyflex format. Judy also shared details about Briya's QSR results. Briya scored the highest under special ed out of all schools reviewed.

4. Finance Committee - reported by Joel Goering

- December financials
 - Two changes to the year-end forecast: We have now included staff service awards for the end of the year (expected to be paid in June), and we now have a revised staffing contract with Mary's Center with a higher fringe rate for benefits and admin fee. Reasons for the increase in the fringe

benefit rate: Healthcare costs have continued to go up as a trend aligned with the rest of the country and fewer Mary's Center employees mean costs are spread over a smaller group of employees.

- With these changes, our forecast net income for the year is \$269k, which is \$158k better than budget.
- Briya's cash position is still projected to be healthy by the end of the year (~300 days of cash when including the Charles Schwab investments).
- Form 990
 - This form was sent to board members earlier this week and has been reviewed by the Finance Committee.
 - *Stuart Butler moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2025 Form 990; Charlotte Baer seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*
 - Roll call:
 - Doris Garay – yes
 - Stuart Butler – yes
 - Geovanna Izurieta – yes
 - Dimelsa Zelaya – yes
 - Brittany Pope – yes
 - Cara Sklar – yes
 - Charlotte Baer – yes
 - Jennifer Huang – yes
 - Brenda Martinez – yes
 - Bill Bletzinger – yes
- FY27 budget development process
 - Joel and Christie shared with Briya staff planning team this morning that this year's budget season will likely be more difficult than past years due to downward trends in the overall DC budget.
 - This time last year we were bracing for a difficult budget season, but it turned out better than expected. This upcoming budget cycle seems like it could be more challenging.
 - Per pupil funding may be flat instead of the typical 2-5% increase of previous years.
 - Joel shared a brief budget development timeline.
 - The board will talk about city budget projections during the March retreat and ways that we as a school can advocate for our students.
 - Today was advocacy day for AE and we had a large group of students and staff from the nine adult education charter schools go to the Wilson building to advocate for our funding.

5. Announcements/New Business

6. Closed Session

- Pursuant Chapter 5, Subchapter IV, Section 2-575(b)(2) of the Code of the District of Columbia, the Briya Board of Trustees will enter into closed session for Reason 2, "To discuss, establish, or instruct the public body's staff or negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken in negotiating the price and

other material terms of a contract, including an employment contract, if an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body."

- **Bill Bletzinger** moved to enter a closed session for the reason listed on the agenda; **Stuart Butler** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Roll call:
 - Doris Garay – yes
 - Stuart Butler – yes
 - Geovanna Izurieta – yes
 - Dimelsa Zelaya – yes
 - Brittany Pope – yes
 - Cara Sklar – yes
 - Charlotte Baer – yes
 - Jennifer Huang – yes
 - Brenda Martinez – yes
 - Bill Bletzinger – yes

- **Cara Sklar** moved exit closed session; **Bill Bletzinger** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
 - Roll call:
 - Doris Garay – yes
 - Stuart Butler – yes
 - Geovanna Izurieta – yes
 - Dimelsa Zelaya – absent for this vote
 - Brittany Pope – yes
 - Cara Sklar – yes
 - Charlotte Baer – yes
 - Jennifer Huang – yes
 - Brenda Martinez – yes
 - Bill Bletzinger – yes

7. Adjournment

- There were no matters to report out from the executive session, and the meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.