

Greetings,

As we continue our work on behalf of Boston College High School, I am pleased to share with you an overview of our efforts since September 1. We welcomed seven new members to the Board of Trustees and their leadership, insight, and expertise has proven valuable as we navigate these challenging times.

Pandemic

We are reminded each day the effects that this pandemic has had on our students. I want to thank the school leadership and the Enterprise Risk Task Force, as well as the internal school task force, for producing such a robust reopening plan and institutional protocols. BC High made a \$1.4 million-dollar investment in classroom technology. At this critical point, the Board wishes to acknowledge the dedication, innovation and hard work of the faculty and staff in keeping the school safe and serving the students so well. The Board is looking forward to "visiting" classes this spring to get a first-hand look at the technology enhancements and to experience this synchronous model of learning.

Strategic Planning

This past fall, we began working on the next Strategic Plan for BC High. Though it is still early in the process, we have a few notes to share. We elected Manatt as a strategic planning consultant and they have taken us through the first phase of development, which produced agreement on a basic direction for the plan and key areas that need to be addressed. The Manatt team have been actively interviewing and learning about BC High so they can begin a more public facing phase this spring. We are excited to share our progress and engage the BC High community as we begin the important work of developing strategic initiatives for the school in Phase II.

Financial Update

The Finance Committee of the Board presented the audit report of FY'20 and we are pleased to report that BC High received a clean audit from the auditing firm of Blum Shapiro. On the recommendation of the committee, the Board set the tuition for 2021-22, which will be announced next week. I am also grateful to the Investment Committee of the Board for their stewardship of our endowment, which has done well through all the ups and downs in the market over the last year.



Board Committees

The Board committees met this fall. The standing Board committees are: Governance, Human Excellence, Mission and Identity, Finance, Investment and the executive committee. The Enterprise Risk Task Force was established in 2020 and meets weekly.

DEI

You may remember that the Board engaged the law firm of Latham and Watkins to explore the BlackatBCHigh Instagram account and subsequent outreach by the community. The accounts of racial injustices as experienced by members of the BC High community raised serious concerns; and the Board made a commitment to study our policies and procedures at BC High. BJ Trach, Esq. provided an update at the January Board meeting and we look forward to a report at the conclusion of their investigation.

Student Leadership

At the beginning of our most recent meeting on January 6, we were blessed to welcome several students as part of the student-led initiative, Sharing Our Story. These young men from the BLSU and Diversity Cabinet were articulate, thoughtful, and represented the students of BC High in a way that makes us all proud.

We continue to draw upon our founder St. Ignatius to find God in all things, especially in the time of the pandemic. Know that I hold the entire BC High community in my daily prayer. Thank you for your fidelity to BC High.

AMDG,

Rev. Michael McFarland, SJ