Black Boys Leadership Alliance for Change (B-BLAC)
Board of Directors Meeting Agenda
June 7, 2022
Duration: 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Location: Zoom*

B-BLAC Mission: B-BLAC is committed to providing various supportive social services through training, educational, cultural, and networking opportunities to empower boys and young men of color to grow and thrive.

B-BLAC Vision: B-BLAC’s vision is to create model projects and programs throughout underserved communities in New York City that are intended to provide additional layers of holistic support for boys and men from minority groups.

Call to Order
Board Directors expected to attend:

- Dr. Justin Boone
- Khelan Todd
- Asha Natarajan
- Karen James
- Jamell Henderson
- Nicole Bezinski
- Jonathan Bhulai

Board Directors absent with prior notice:
None

Others expected to attend:
None

Approval of Agenda (2 mins)
Recap of last meeting (5 mins)
New Members’ Onboarding (10 mins)
Report: Pilot Program (10 mins)
Unfinished Board Business - Feedback on programs (5 mins)
New Business: New Partnerships, Annual Fundraiser, Staffing needs (10 mins)

State of the Board: New Chairman, Secretary, Amendment to meetings, reinforcement of roles (15 mins)

Next meeting
Open discussion
Adjournment

*Recording of meeting available upon request.
The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm by Jevone Andy, who served as interim chair for the meeting. The agenda was reviewed and members were reminded of the meeting’s discussion points.

Present were: Dr. Justin Boone, Khelan Todd, Asha Natarajan, Jamell Henderson, Nicole Bizenski, and Jonathan Bhuali.

Directors absent with prior notice: Karen James

Members of the public in attendance: No public members were in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda: The agenda was presented and approved by the Board of Directors for B-BLAC via email before the meeting.

Recap of the previous meeting: The meeting chair provided a brief recap of the last meeting held in April. BODs were informed of the new changes to the structure of meetings that would be implemented. The change was announced as immediate, which was further explained later on in the meeting.

New Board Members’ Onboarding: The chair announced and acknowledged the presence of two (2) newly appointed BODs, Nicole Bezenski, and Jonathan Bhuali. The newly appointed BODs received an onboarding presentation, which provided an overview of the organization and their roles and responsibilities as BODs. New BODs were asked to introduce themselves to the existing directors. Jonathan introduced himself followed by Nicole. The other BODs were asked to introduce themselves and their role at B-BLAC.

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Introductions were done in the following order: Asha Natarajan, Dr. Justin Boone, Jamell Henderson, Khelan Todd, and Jevone Andy. New BODs were welcomed by the existing BODs.

**Pilot Program Report:** Jevone Andy provided a report on the existing pilot program at New Visions Charter High School AIM I in Brooklyn. Andy informed BODs that the pilot was implemented in May 2022 and has proven to be making significant progress. BODs were informed of the participation and enthusiasm among students and faculty. Jevone stated that an official assessment/evaluation will be done at the end of the pilot to provide metrics on the program’s impacts. Andy highlighted the promising impacts of the I.C.A.N. Incubator. Challenges were highlighted such as financial burdens due to the probono nature, and emphasis was placed on the need for partnerships for funding.

**Unfinished Board Business:** Following the agenda, Andy asked BODs to provide feedback on the updates made to the programs reflected on the website, as discussed in the last meeting. Jonathan opened with a question to reinforce the nature of the existing I.C.A.N Incubator partnership, specifically regarding funding. Jevone reminded BODs that the current program is offered through a probono partnership. Andy also stated that initial conversations with the school surrounded possible funding, however, that was not able to be fulfilled due to the school's budgetary distress. Nicole raised a concern regarding the presentation of the programs and the audience the document/link shared was created for. She suggested refining the document/overview of each program to include the qualifications of facilitators and other steps to provide transparency. Asha and Khelan supported Nicole’s comment regarding reframing to provide clarity and transparency.

**New Business:** **New Partnerships:** Jevone provided an overview regarding the existing pilot and the need to foster other partnerships. Andy stated that steps to new partnerships would be necessary to support students. Andy stated that communication was made with CUNY Gutmann Community College to foster a college pathway program and to implement the B-BLAC M.E.N initiative at the college. Jevone also mentioned that B-BLAC will be

*Recording of meeting available upon request.*
partnering with two schools in Brooklyn in the coming school year. **Annual Fundraiser:** The need for a fundraiser was discussed and a proposed month was set for September 2022. The significance of a fundraiser was reinforced to cover operational expenses as well as hiring staff. Justin inquired about a previous grant proposal; Jevone provided an update regarding B-BLAC not being qualified for the grant. Nicole inquired about grant strategies and the anticipated funding sources that B-BLAC aims to target. Nicole volunteered to help navigate the approach that the organization can take to secure funding. Khelan agreed with Nicole’s suggestion and stated the importance of approaching corporate sponsorships. Jonathan volunteered to share contacts with other nonprofits similar to B-BLAC to provide mentorship/guidance regarding approaches that can be taken. Justin suggested documenting progress through videography, photography, and testimonials from students and faculty to serve as proof of work when targeting potential funders.

**State of the Board:** Jevone announced the resignation of the outgoing board chair, Karl Williams as well as Board Director Adrian Devezin. Jevone stated the need for a new board chair and a secretary. BODs were asked to consider roles before approaching external sources. **Amendment to meetings:** The matter of the structure of meetings was raised. BODs were informed that effective July 2022, the board will meet monthly to provide efficient governance and oversight. **Reinforcement of Roles:** BODs were reminded of their roles and the importance of their roles as articulated in the Board Members’ Handbook. BODs were asked to revisit the handbook for details.

**New Meeting:** A vote was cast to have meetings every first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm EST. This was opposed by Dr. Boone who had personal burdens that would conflict with the proposed date and time. Khelan Todd suggested every first Thursday of the month. A vote was cast and all members were in agreement. It was settled that the next meeting would be Thursday, July 7 at 6:30 pm EST on Zoom. Nicole suggested sending all meetings for the rest of the year to the BOD’s calendars to ensure attendance.

*Recording of meeting available upon request.*
**Open Discussion:** Dr. Justin Boone inquired about the nature of the fundraiser, that is if it would be in person or online. Jevone suggested that the fundraiser adapt an in-person/hybrid model for the BOD fellowship. Nicole suggested revisiting the proposed date in September. A suggestion was made for the fundraiser to be held in October/early November to prevent potential conflicts and to ensure maximum support. BODs inquired about the structure of the fundraiser and suggested focusing the next meeting on planning and organization. Jonathan inquired about website analytics and its impact on donations. Jevone shared that while the website receives large traffic, donations are not always given the organization doesn't receive consistent donations. Nicole suggested marketing strategies and utilizing social media for promotion. Nicole and Khelan offered to assist with finding interns.

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Andy and seconded by Asha. Meeting was adjourned at 7:44 pm EST.

Remarks - Next Meeting Date

**Statement of Affirmation:**

I, ________________, the duly qualified Secretary of the Board of Directors of B-BLAC, a New York nonprofit corporation, do hereby certify that I prepared these minutes and that the above is a true and complete copy of the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the said corporation held on the **7th** day of **June 2022**

Reviewed and Approved by:

[Signature]

BOD Chairman/Authorized Officer

On the **14th** day of June 2022

*Recording of meeting available upon request.*