

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:10p.m.

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), James Becker, Ivy Washington, Lin Tucker, Deborah Del Dotto, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Jenepher Gooding, Shane Buker and Dehlia Umunna.

Visitors: Tasheika Johnson, 3-6 math coach and Molander Etienne, 3-6 literacy coach.

Absent: Bruce Ward, and Lenora Jennings.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Jimmy Becker motioned to approve the October minutes, Lin Tucker seconded the motion with a minor change about next year's curriculum night, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

The forecast is based on the first four months of the year and the future eight months. The forecast hasn't changed from last month and the financials are on track. There will be a small surplus but still a little higher than what we originally budgeted. FY17 actuals is the only column that has changed. Enrollment is 147 Cambridge with a total enrollment of 349.

- **Financial Policies and Procedures**

Very little has changed with the policies and procedures except the format. In terms of our own policies and procedures and what we do in actual business isn't what we need approved. DESE has suggested a format of what they would like our policies and procedures to look like.

The biggest change was the procurement and how it is done on the federal level. So there are different requirements some things were less strict and others became stricter. There is less oversight on the smaller purchases (under \$5,000) and more oversight on the larger purchases. When you are using public funds they want to make sure you are using free and open competition and you are getting a good deal. Whatever your strictest procurement law is in your state you must follow it.

Cindy will make a new document of all of this information and then send it out to the Board for next month's approval.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

There was a question about testing for lead in the water used in the school building. The school was tested a few years back and received certification and isn't due for testing again until 2018.

The children of the Banneker participated in mock voting this year. Time for Kids has predicted the outcome of the election results correctly for the last forty years and they predicted Hilary Clinton to win. So Banneker was convinced that Hilary Clinton would win the election. The day after the election the students were very upset.

They weren't eating and some were depressed and crying about the loss. Ms. Bretous decided to send a special video to the students to let them know they are safe and things will work out. Then she decided to get every student a cupcake and the staff lunch. By Thursday everyone felt better and things settled down.

- **PARCC Presentation**

ELA

Ms. Etienne will review students overall performance over the course of five years. The school has been Level 1 for the past five years. The goal is to close the gaps and make adequate progress. When our chart reads 69% it means that our students are performing better than 69% of the K-6 students state wide. When you compare 2016 compared to 2012 we are at 30 percentile, but met our target, so that puts us in the Level 1 category.

When you look at ELA students in Grades 3-6 with proficient and advanced we out performed Cambridge, Prospect Hill, Renaissance and Boston. When you compare African American students in the other schools we out performed them, which is what we set out to do, to serve under performing students that typically don't do well in districts like Cambridge. When you compare other schools with the same population as Banneker we are out performing them by 27%.

The only grade we have a problem is fourth grade, Cambridge out performed us on that grade level. Our strongest performance was in fifth grade 92% of the students were proficient or advanced.

Next year the Board would like to see all five categories in comparison to other districts.

Math

Ms. Johnson will review overall performance for math. In math we are out performing Cambridge Public, Prospect Hill, Renaissance, and Boston. When it comes to African American students we out performed the other schools by 30%. Fourth grade was the only grade that fell behind. There are new teachers in the fourth grade and that could be the problem. It is hard to hire experienced teachers because of the salary difference between public and charter schools. Sometimes it is better to hire a teacher with less experience because it's harder to unteach someone with more experience, and difficult to coach them.

Warning has decreased.

Plan For Fourth Grade

Coaches meet with them twice a week. The new teacher can focus on one content area while another teacher focuses on the other content area.

MCAS 2.0 the next generation is coming in the spring

Ivy Washington motioned to adjourn the meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss the Executive Director's salary, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.