

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.m.

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, James Becker, Sherley Bretous Carre' (Executive Director, ex-officio), Bruce Ward, Jean French, Dehlia Umunna, Deborah Del Dotto, Anita Burke-Johnson, and Jenepher Gooding.

Visitors: Gloria Mylyk, business office.

Absent: Lenora Jennings, Russell Eckel, Ivy Washington, and Lin Tucker

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Bruce Ward motioned to approve the November minutes, Jimmy Becker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

The financials are in good shape with no concerns. The forecast is what was planned on for the year. The school is waiting for news on the reimbursement rates, and they should be out in January.

- **Marketing Plan Discussion**

Its time to embark on a big loud and proud marketing plan about the school and possibly connect it to our 20th anniversary party. The school has been getting our name out there because of our best practices articles, and Mass Charter School Association would like to do four articles about the school.

We would like to hire someone to do the marketing next year but the reality is we don't have room for any more students now. The Board thinks it is time to hire a PR firm and put them on a retainer, then have the firm promote the school. The school is in a great place right now and we have a lot of good stories to tell.

The school should look at the anniversary celebration, marketing, and fundraising all under the same umbrella. This is all to build a reputation, get more people involved, and from that comes success for when you do want to fundraise.

Cindy Goncalves will send out an email to other charter schools to see what marketing firms they are using. Cindy will work on this over the break and get three proposals.

- **Learning Walk Highlights**

The Board was impressed by the high quality of instruction. When they moved room to room they saw a nice alignment vertically and horizontally with curriculum. From the lower grades to the upper grades students were very specific in their language, and even complimenting one another. There were no classroom management issues. They saw a lot of clarity and transparency in terms of the objectives, written, stated, and constantly being reinforced.

In school it's critical that students feel safe, and free to make mistakes. There was a sense that students feel safe here at the school and a feeling of warmth towards each other in the classroom.

The Board will schedule more walks in January.

- **Speaking with Confidence 5th Grade**

The club consists of seven fifth graders that are looking for techniques and strategies for public speaking. The school created the club because some of the students in the club were nervous about being called upon in class.

Darnell Thigpen Williams spoke with the club about his experiences teaching here at the Banneker school and the club enjoyed it.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

The DESE sent out the Massachusetts School Report Card Overview. The report card overview answers important questions about our school's performance. Our school did well and we are considered a Level One school. Student growth percentiles show gains in student achievement from year to year. Last year we introduced teacher videos. The teacher's videotape themselves teaching in the classroom, and eventually the tapes will be used to build a teacher's portfolio. Students and teachers enjoy seeing Board members on the learning walk.

- **Specialists Presentation**

1. **Sean Best (Physical Education)**

Mr. Best wants students moving and having a good time with physical education. Through activities students gain confidence in themselves while increasing overall fitness. Students have physical education once a week for 45 minutes. Mr. Best also works with the Adventure Club in providing outdoor experiences year round to the upper grades.

2. **Jennifer Gordon (Librarian)**

The library classes are for 45 minutes once a week. Activities range from learning library skills to reading chapter books. Ms. Gordon teaches how to locate information in the library and how to use OPAC, and research. Ms. Gordon is also part of the Adventure Club.

3. **Anesta Hicks (Technology)**

Ms. Hicks works with the entire community with integrating technology tools to enhance student performance and learning. She is also one of the school's cross-country coaches. (Banneker Bolts) Ms. Hicks also teaches a social studies program to grades 3-6.

4. **Catherine Marino**

All students have a general music class once a week (twice a week for K1), and there are additional musical ensemble choices for older students. Ms. Marino's main focus is getting students to match pitch and follow a beat. The winter concert is on Thursday, December 17th at 1:00 and 6:00pm. The Lion King performance will take place sometime in June.

Dehlia Umunna motioned to adjourn the meeting, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.