

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2016

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

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, James Becker, Sherley Bretous Carre' (Executive Director, ex-officio), Bruce Ward, Ivy Washington, Jean French, Lin Tucker, Deborah Del Dotto, Russell Eckel, Lenora Jennings, Anita Burke-Johnson and Jenepher Gooding.

Visitors: Dr. Kathleen Horrocks, director of special education and support services.

Absent: Dehlia Umunna.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

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

Jimmy Becker motioned to approve the January minutes, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

More data has come out on the tuition rates, and we have over budgeted on the student rates leaving us with a surplus.

The Cambridge tuition rate is down from last year because the amount of Cambridge students enrolled has increased and that reduced the budget. The reduction per pupil is about \$2,000 in the Cambridge Public School rate. The Boston rate is more complicated because you are looking of a combination of about 15 towns combined. The average rate of tuition per student outside of Cambridge is about \$15,000.

- **Staff Bonuses**

Three criteria have to be met by the staff before considering bonuses (1.) student achievement (2.) student enrollment (3.) enough surplus in the budget. Ms. Bretous tells the staff that they shouldn't expect a bonus every year but if the school is the position to consider a bonus they will. The staff has worked hard for high achievement and strong student academic progress. The Board would like to give all the staff that worked at the school for over one year a bonus of \$1,500.

Lenora Jennings motioned to approve \$1,500 bonus for staff, Bruce Ward seconded the motion, majority approved, Jimmy Becker opposed.

- **New Enrollment Policy**

When the school had renewal we were asked to add a plan that was called "Banneker as a Cambridge institution", which is a promise to DESE to reduce our intake of Boston students. DESE wanted us to include this information in our enrollment policy.

James Becker motioned to approve the new enrollment policy, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Executive Director's Report:

School Update

- **Staff Survey**

The survey has gone out to staff and we should have the results by the next week. We plan on discussing the results at the March meeting. Ms. Bretous is working on a draft for a new survey for next year.

- **20th Anniversary Celebration**

The Board has reached out to previous members to invite them to the celebration. By the March meeting the Board should have the invitations to send out. Ms. Bretous is working on the agenda for the celebration and hopefully it will be ready by the next Board meeting. Cindy is working on a Google doc to send to the Board that will include the information on who is being contacted and invited, and by which Board member so it will be less confusing.

- **SPED Presentation**

Our support services staff consists of special education teachers, an ELL teacher, a full time counselor, and nurse. The school also has a psychologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, and they are here on a consulting basis for a short amount of time. Right now there are 44 students on IEP's, of the 44 students, 17 are ELL's.

The reasons students are eligible for special education is because of disabilities in learning or communication, and that is the largest population. The next biggest percentage is students with developmental delays. We have a few students with either social emotional impairment, or intellectual impairment. This is the first year that we had a child enrolled at the school with autism.

Bruce Ward motioned to adjourn the meeting Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.