

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 28, 2016

Meeting called to order at 6:07p.m.

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

Visitors: Bliss Austin Spooner, Barbara Brothers (After School Director)

Absent: Lenora Jennings, Lin Tucker

Public Comment:

Bliss Austin Spooner, a long-time Cambridge resident and neighbor of the school, introduces herself. She is here to learn more about the school.

Kacey Brister, the new Banneker Marketing Coordinator, was introduced to the board.

James Becker motioned to approve the March minutes with a change under banking, Jean French seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

There aren't many changes from last month. The current surplus is \$58,358. This year's budget forecast has been pretty accurate.

- **Budget FY17**

There may be a need to use an unblended student rate. The proposed breakouts would be: Boston, Cambridge, and then other. Three different versions and different percentages for staff on scale and off scale were provided for the budget forecast. The reason is because there is a wide range of salaries for people who are off scale. These numbers do not provide an analysis of our scale, but rather are based on a general feeling that we should be increasing the scale a little bit (1-2%). There will be a compensation study by an outside organization. Currently references are being checked for two different groups being considered. It will be approximately a 3-6 month process. The goal is to have staff interviews possibly this spring, research/market analysis this summer, and follow up this fall. It will cost \$20000-25000 to do this, and it would be a little more expensive if the groups were to look into benefits along with the pay scale. If the group is hired by June 1, they will be paid this FY (it has been noted in the FY16 budget). Last year, after an internal study, multi-year contracts were discussed. Two major changes to FY17 budget not seen in FY16 budget: economically disadvantaged vs. free and reduced. That takes us from ~70% to credit to ~40%. Charter schools across the board took a hit. Another hit we haven't seen yet is Title I, which is determined on the basis of free and reduced. That is why grant funds is reduced on the budget. Staffing is not all in place so there will be changes there, and health insurance doesn't renew until 9/1 so there may be some increases there as well.

The board votes on the budget for FY17.

Ivy Washington motions to approve the budget that is 3% off scale and 1% scale for FY17. Jean French seconded the motion. Dehlia Ummuna abstained. All others approved.

- **May Board Meeting**

It is agreed upon that the May Board Meeting will be moved to Thursday, May 19. Finance committee meeting will be Monday, May 16.

**Executive Director's Report:
School Update**

- **20th Anniversary Celebration**

The 20th anniversary gala will be Thursday, June 23 at the Cambridge Multicultural Arts Center. Former and current board members will be attending. Currently there are approximately 30-40 people, who are non-staff, confirmed to attend. Charles Ogletree will be attending as well. Save the Dates were sent out in early April. Formal invitations will go out by Memorial Day.

- **Barbara Brothers Afterschool Presentation**

The after school program serves 43 students from Kindergarten to 5th grade. The program is run by staff as well as by volunteers, and both groups receive extensive training. Some of the goals of the program include the following: to provide a safe, positive, and welcoming environment; to teach children positive academic habits and help with homework as needed; to build resiliency and metacognitive skills in students; to provide an opportunity for children to expand their horizons and try new things; and to work with families to encourage students' growth in the areas of academic, health, and social emotional well-being. The program has witnessed many successes: high demand for the program with applications coming in year round; many options for specials; and students building a strong sense of community featuring positive relationships with both staff members and also their fellow students. Some of the challenges the program has faced include: space and a steeper learning curve for staff with the numerous options available to the students.

- **Spring concert**

The turnout was amazing. Students in the band had an EOY celebration with teachers who play with the band.

- **Cambridge Science Festival**

Six winning Banneker students out of only 100 selected. The winning projects were displayed at MIT and are now being displayed at Banneker.

- **MIT Consortium**

After receiving an invite, Banneker has decided to partner with MIT for their consortium, which is focusing on using engineering framework to teach content. We selected 5th and 6th graders in Math to participate so there are four units happening this year. Teachers attend Professional Development and work together to get ideas on how to use the engineering framework to design units and implement them in the class. An MIT professor is staffed here on campus, once per week, which costs Banneker \$25,000. This year we are testing units, which requires us to suspend our own curriculum for 2 ½ hours per day. The hope is that next year we continue this with 5th and 6th grade then we'll add 4th grade. The program provides a complete rubric for measuring success.

- **PARCC**

PARCC starts the first week of May. This is the last year for PARCC, as next year MCAS 2.0 begins. Some kids who are on the cusp of proficiency have been participating in the PARCC after school program. Internally, accelerated growth has been noted in kids who participated in PARCC after school compared to those who didn't.

- **Lion King Performance**

The students will be performing the Lion King on June 2-4 at 1:15 and 6:30.

Jenepher Gooding motioned to adjourn the meeting, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.