

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2016

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

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, James Becker, Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Bruce Ward, Ivy Washington, Lenora Jennings, Jean French, Jenepher Gooding and Lin Tucker.

Visitors: Lynette Culverhouse, math coach, and Heather Martin, literacy coach.

Absent: Deborah Del Dotto, Dehlia Umunna, and Anita Burke-Johnson.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Lenora Jennings motioned to approve the February minutes, Jean French seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Membership**

Russell Eckel has stepped down from the Board due to his busy schedule at Shawsheen Technical High School. Jean French will be stepping down from the Board in June after serving for 11 years.

Darnell Thigpen Williams has recommended a former student of the Banneker, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, as a new candidate to become a Board member. Charline has her master's degree, and is training teachers across the state. Charline is interested in coming back to the Banneker school, and serving our population.

Ivy Washington has recommended Shane Buker as a new candidate for the Board membership. Shane is a scientist involved with cancer research, and is in tune with the biotech firms.

Please contact Darnell Williams if anyone is interested in becoming the Chair of the Board. If you are interested in becoming the Chair of the HR committee please contact Jean French.

- **Financials**

The financials are basically the same. The surplus is less than last month because of the staff bonuses. The current surplus is \$70,173.

- **Compensation Study**

The HR committee received two proposals from different companies that will do a comprehensive look at our salary structure. Every year we struggle with the pay scales, wondering if there are enough levels on the scale, and if the staff is getting raises when they should be. The Board is hoping to have this study done by the beginning of the next year. If they recommend changes in the salary structure we would like some information on how to implement them.

Executive Director's Report:

School Update

- **Staff Survey**

The comments on the survey are useful but the format of the responses on the monkey survey is sometimes difficult to understand. Ms. Bretous will be working on a new survey for next year that will have a new style and be more in tune to our needs.

- **20th Anniversary Celebration**

The Google doc that was created by the business office and was sent to the Board wasn't helpful. The Board was looking for a spreadsheet with the old Board members contact information so they could keep track of who was invited and which Board member invited them. Sherley and Cindy will work on a new spreadsheet and send it out to the Board on Tuesday.

- **(K-2) Math Presentation**

The teacher's have been expanding the use of Kathy Richardson's approach to teaching early math concepts. Using Kathy Richardson's assessing number concepts in K1 and K2 determines what kind of support is needed for student intervention in all grades.

Teachers started using a guided math approach and rearranged how they organize time. They strengthened the kindergarten program by introducing EngageNY modules. Teachers are continuing to use Rocket Math for math facts.

- **(K-2) Literacy Presentation**

Some of the improvements this year have been increasing the reading and writing opportunities across all content areas with the focus on science. They implemented a pre and post assessment after every writing unit, which has been a huge relief in some ways, now we can measure how well the students are doing. We are trying to identify the trends we see so we can think about our teaching and where we want to go next.

All TA's are trained in guided reading and benchmark assessment, so it doesn't all fall on the teacher.

Ms. Danahy's kindergarten class won the DuPont Challenge this year by entering into the writing competition. The entry "Penguins" was selected from hundreds of entries across the United States and Canada. DuPont acknowledged Ms. Danahy by coming to the school and hosting a "Science is Fun Day". DuPont invited Ms. Danahy to Nashville next week to attend the NSTA Conference on Science.

- **Bank Change**

The school has decided to change banks because Eastern Bank provides a lot more of opportunities to charter schools than Citizens Bank. Eastern Bank is also sponsoring our after school program.

Lin Tucker motioned to approve to move accounts from Citizen Bank to Eastern Bank, Jenepher Gooding seconded the motion, all approved.

Ivy Washington motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jean French seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.