

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
October 27, 2016

- **Board “Meet and Greet” the parents in the cafeteria at 6:00pm. Next year we will hold the “Meet and Greet” On Curriculum Night when more parents are present.**

**Meeting called to order at 6:27p.m.**

**Attendees:** Darnell Thigpen Williams, Sherley Bretous Carre’ (Executive Director, ex-officio), James Becker, Bruce Ward, Lenora Jennings, Ivy Washington, Lin Tucker, Deborah Del Dotto, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Jenepher Gooding and Shane Buker.

**Visitors:** Molander Etienne, literacy coach.

**Absent:** Dehlia Umunna.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

*Lenora Jennings motioned to approve the September minutes, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.*

**Board Business:**

- **Financials**

The Financials are very similar from last month. There is a decrease due to more students coming from other districts as opposed to Boston. We are still budgeting less than actual for both enrollment and tuition rates. The federal grants are higher than expected. There is staff savings due to the turnover.

- **Approve Audit**

It is interesting that every year the auditors give us a comparison of different schools around Boston that our auditors also audit. The schools are referred to as School C, or D so you don’t know what school they are. The schools started the same time as us, one is leased and one is owned. Many of the categories that we are comparing ourselves to them are based on the measures that the state looks at. Most of their money is spent on personnel, one of the schools receives more grant money than us.

Our school collects more money per pupil tuition than the other two schools. One school is getting \$12,000 per student and the other school is getting \$15,000 per student. Our school on average is receiving about \$19,000 per student.

*Ivy Washington motioned to approve the audit discussed here tonight, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.*

- **Board Goals 2016-2017**

One of the Board goals (All trustees contribute financially to either the Banneker Foundation or the school) this goal will be moved to the Governance Committee.

- **Finance Committee**

If any member of the Board would like to join the Finance Committee please contact Ivy or Jimmy.

*Charline Alexandre-Joseph motioned to approve the Board goals and its revisions for the year, Jenepher Gooding seconded the motion, all approved.*

- **Gala Debrief**

It was great to have some of the founding members of the school at the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala and speak about their experiences. It felt like a movement and there was a sense of history. Some of the people that came you hadn't seen in years and they had traveled a long way to attend. The presentation "The Lion King" from the students was powerful.

It was great it wasn't a fundraiser, which made it more celebratory. The gala was about "The Benjamin Banneker Charter School" and its accomplishments.

The space in some ways was beautiful and in some ways it was imperfect. You really couldn't hear people well. The venue would have been better if there was more seating and if there was a stage for the students to perform.

## **Executive Director's Report:**

- **School Update**

Ms. Etienne has invited the Board to attend the student writer's celebration that is from 9:00-11:00am on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Curriculum night is November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

The school will be doing the "Holiday Gift Giving" this year, more information to follow.

December 9<sup>th</sup> is the staff Holiday party aboard the Spirit of Boston. Boarding begins at 7:00pm. RSVP Mary Lucey.

The school received an invitation from the Cambridge City Council, wanting to meet with leadership from local charter schools. The City Council wanted to meet with school leaders from PHA, CCSC and the Banneker. The agenda that was sent out had questions like "What do you do to keep Cambridge students"? "What are families saying about leaving public schools and going to charter schools"?

There was a great conversation about how all the schools can serve all Cambridge students better.

If you compare all students in all Cambridge schools, Banneker students are doing better especially when compared to other African American students in public schools.

*Lenora Jennings motioned to adjourn the meeting and go into Executive session to discuss our lease with the church, Bruce Ward seconded the motion, all approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.