

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
March 23, 2017

**Meeting called to order at 6:10pm.**

**Attendees:** Darnell Thigpen Williams, Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), James Becker, Bruce Ward, Dehlia Umunna, Lin Tucker, Jenepher Gooding, and Shane Buker.

**Visitors:** Heather Martin, literacy coach, Lynette Culverhouse, math coach, Tyrone Mowatt, Ed Inquiry, Molander Etienne, 3-6 literacy coach.

**Absent:** Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Ivy Washington, and Deborah Del Dotto.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

*Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve the February minutes, James Becker seconded the motion, all approved.*

**Board Business:**

- **Financials**

The financials are good and the school is great shape. The school has a surplus of \$210,013 and this incorporates the proposed bonus for the staff, and some school maintenance projects.

- **Budget Discussion**

If we incorporate the new scale and make some assumptions about enrollment, we can determine what the potential budget will look like for next year and then the three years after that. Essentially, we are assuming that the Cambridge enrollment will continue to grow, and it has been projected to increase by 10 Cambridge students next year, and by 5 Cambridge students every year after that. Then we made assumptions about increases in salaries for each of those years, and if we then incorporate the new salary scale, there should be a healthy surplus for the next couple of years.

If everything went up 3% on two million over the next few years that would be about \$60,000, and our budget would still be fine. This news is great, and it shows that is the Cambridge enrollment continues to grow.

Next month the budget will be presented.

- **New Teacher Pay scale**

The directive of the study was to come within 5% of the Boston charters salaries and this scale does. Especially in the Masters steps 3-7, and this is the area where we want to attract teachers. If we can afford to increase the scale by 1% every year and we increase the off scale people by 4% it would make our scale, with our benefits, very competitive.

- **Civil Rights Policy**

The Civil Rights Policy explains how the school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin, in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

*James Becker motioned to approve the Civil Rights Policy as presented here tonight, Bruce Ward seconded the motion, all approved.*

- **Wellness Policy**

This policy is to protect our children's health and well-being. The school will provide nutrition education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating.

*Bruce Ward motioned to approve the Wellness Policy with a few minor changes, Dehlia Umunna seconded the motion, all approved.*

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

- **School Update**

This month ELA MCAS 4<sup>th</sup> grade is the only grade this year that will do computer based testing. There has been a lot of MCAS training with the students. MCAS Science and MCAS Math start in May. Ms. Bretous took the fifth grade students to the Lion King at the Rhode Island Performance Arts Center.

- **Math Challenge**

The Math Challenge was launched in January of 2017. We have been looking at assessments, and looking online at all the data to start the Math Challenge. The challenge uses technology to assess where children are in terms of skills, and to see if there are any gaps. This is assigned to the students to fill in a gap or meet what is going on in the classroom, or for some students it is to advance them beyond their peers. The prizes that are being offered keeps the students motivated.

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

Curriculum has been updated in K-2 math. K-2 has used the Engage NY curriculum this year after piloting sections of it last year.

The school continued to use Kathy Richardson's Developing Number Concepts approach at the kindergarten level. We replaced Rocket Math with Reflex Math for teaching math facts. Also, we have been using one math block every week for STEM, coding, and robotics. Ms. Culverhouse is doing an engineering group with second grade.

The school continues to work with Green City Growers with our garden out in front of the school. The garden curriculum is designed to fit in with each grade's science curriculum. Teachers met with our garden teacher to plan the spring program.

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

There have been improvements with ELA. There is increased reading and writing opportunities across all content areas, especially science. Also, we continue to implement technology and art in other content areas. The school continues to train and provide coaching to all TA's in guided reading and assessments to ensure the needs of students are being met.

*Dehlia Umunna motioned to adjourn the meeting, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.