

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:05p.m.

Ivy Washington, Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Milton Masud, Janel Granum, Josiane Julmeus, and Michelle Crawford

Visitors: Jared Perrine, technology director, Tasheika Johnson, math coach and Molander Etienne, literacy coach.

Absent: Dehlia Umunna, and Jenepher Gooding.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Janel Granum motioned to approve the October minutes with a few changes, Shane Buker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

No changes from the forecast last time and there is not a lot to report. Cambridge enrollment is still higher than the budget for the year.

The Board will discuss potential investment vehicles for the extra surplus that the school has in January, and will present to the Board some investment options.

The Finance committee will skip the December meeting because there won't be any new information.

- **Updated Board Goals**

The goals have been updated and Janel Granum has to be added to the Human Resource Committee.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

The November Jazz concert is on November 30th at 1:00pm and 6:00pm. The Winter Concert Is December 14th at 1:00pm and 6:00pm. Our Christmas Party is on December 15th at Anthony's Restaurant in Malden. This year we have a Coordinated Program Review with the state. They come in and review our SPED IEP's, Civil Rights, and ELL program. It is a two-year process and last year we had 57 reports to submit to DESE. They review the reports and then come to the school and do a three-day observation on December 5, 6, and 7th. DESE will give us the findings in early January and we would like to be in compliance.

- **MCAS Presentation (Ms. Etienne and Ms. Johnson)**

Molander Etienne has been at the Banneker for 21 years. In 2003, she trained as a literacy coach at Leslie University and has been the literacy coach at the Banneker ever since. Ms. Johnson started as a TA then received her master's and became a teacher, and is now is an intermediate math coach.

Every public school in the Commonwealth receiving public funds and must take the MCAS test and it is designed to measure the student's skills and concepts outlined in the MA state frameworks. The Next Generation MCAS is an updated version of the old legacy MCAS. The new test is supposed to give clearer signals for the next grade level. It is rigorous because it focuses on critical thinking. In 2008, we were significantly lower than the state and Cambridge. In 2017 the school has significantly outperformed Cambridge and the state. The school has recognized that achievement is closely linked to rigorous curriculum and dynamic teaching. Seventy-Three percent of Banneker students met or exceeded expectations in ELA.

The school has done comparisons to other charter schools in the area and we have outperformed them. In math Banneker outperformed Cambridge, Boston and the state. In both ELA and math in 3rd and 4th grades there were two schools in Cambridge that outperformed Banneker, the Tobin and Amigos. Some of the staff would like to go and observe the K-2 programs in these schools.

Fourth grade turned out higher than the other grades in math and normally that isn't the case. Sixth grade usually outperforms the other grades but this year's assessments were extremely hard so there was a dip in 6th grade scores.

- **Technology Presentation (Jared Perrine) Director of Innovation, Technology and Digital Learning**
This will be an overview of our digital literacy program, and tech plan at the Banneker. The school renamed the computer lab to the digital learning studio because branding matters, and it helps to better understand a shared studio space. When you hear the word studio you think shared production space, it could be art or science.
Innovation lab is an elective in 4th, 5th and 6th grade. This year the students voted on what they wanted to work on. It could be robotics, coding, 3d design and printing, expanding social studies into Minecraft, or video production. The point is to get students skilled, and get them into a field they are interested in, and hopefully get a job in.
Another thing we started this year is our STEM blocks, one block a week for the K-2 as a pilot program. The teachers are free to work on something they are interested in. Some of the teachers are working on robotics and coding.
In terms of data, data education, privacy and safety there are certain things we have to do. To be in compliance we have to have a concept filter to protect students from inappropriate things on line. The school has to teach digital citizenship and computer safety. The school must archive emails and then have access to them. We provide the teachers with "Land School" so they can see what is going on with the students one to one devices in the classroom.

We are down to two dates for the extended Board meeting it will be either March 22nd or April 26th, so please keep those dates open.

Lin Tucker motioned to approve Jenepher Gooding from a Parent Representative to a Board Member, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Shane Buker motioned to adjourn the meeting, Janel Granum seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.