

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 28, 2017

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

Attendees: Ivy Washington, Sherley Bretous, (Executive Director, ex-officio), Milton Masud, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, and Jenepher Gooding.

Visitors: Jennifer Diaz, parent. Potential Board members, Janel Granum, Josianne Julmeus, and Michelle Crawford.

Absent: Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Deborah DelDotto, and Dehlia Umunna.

Public Comment:

Jennifer Diaz is a parent of one of the sixth-grade students in the school. Ms. Diaz has a complaint about the Executive Director because she directed one of the staff to tell her son to groom his hair because it was a distraction. Ms. Diaz's son then went home and said he wanted to cut his hair, and his mother was upset by that. Ms. Diaz feels that it should have been brought to her attention first before anyone spoke to her son and that it is not her son's problem if his hair is a distraction. When Ms. Diaz spoke to Ms. Bretous Tuesday morning she asked her if she addressed the other children whose hair was matted, or don't have haircuts, or come to school with their hair not brushed or combed? Ms. Bretous answered "yes I do". Then the parent asked who is your boss and Ms. Bretous told her she was welcome to come to Board meeting and address the Board about her concerns.

The Board advised Ms. Bretous to review the dress code policy and make updates if necessary.

Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve the May minutes, Shane Bucker seconded the motion, all approved but Lin Tucker abstained.

Board Business:

- **New Members**

Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve the new Board member Jane Granum, and new parent representatives, Josianne Julmeus and Michelle Crawford, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Financials**

The Finance Committee met on a conference call on Monday. The financials continue to look good.

- **Audit**

The auditors have no findings which is excellent news. AAF is not an easy firm to please so it shows we are doing a great job in the business office and our books are clean. The auditors commented that we are in a good place to get a loan in the future if we are still considering buying a building.

One thing that was mentioned was Banneker's surplus and ways we should invest it, but that would depend on our future plans on the building. The school might ask for investment ideas down the road.

Lin Tucker motioned to approve the audit, Jenepher Gooding seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Expulsion Policy**

The policy has to be updated and approved. The policy states that after so many suspensions that the Executive Director has the right to expel a student. The parent has 10 days to appeal the expulsion.

Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve the Expulsion Policy with a minor edit, Shane Buker seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Update Board Goals**

Lin Tucker mentioned doing a walking tour again for Board members. It gives the members a chance to see the students at work in the classrooms. There is interest in have having a retreat this year with the staff around being a STEM or STEAMS school. It would be ideal to have a conversation about our Mission and Vision statement for the new members.

Ms. Bretous thinks the focus should be around grooming the Board this year. The school has a whole day of PD that we could focus on STEAMS in January of 2019, after the new members get familiar with the school. We will put on the agenda some dates for the retreat and work on facilitators.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

Cambridge enrollment is at 168, with the total number of students at 354. MCAS is in but we aren't able to offer the results right now but will share the results with you at the next Board meeting. Grades 3-6 will be assessed in ELA and Math. Our fifth grade will have additional test in Science. This year the fourth grade and the fifth grade will do a computer based test. Our third and sixth graders will do a paper based test. Next year everyone in grades 3-6 will be computer based test. The state requires fourth and fifth grade to be computer based. Banneker has chosen to ease our students into the computer based testing because they are more familiar with the paper based testing. The school is trying out "IReady", it is a standard based assessment we are using for grades 1-6 in ELA and Math.

Ms. Bretous is part of the Cambridge consortium. PHA and CCSC are two of our feeder schools. So, the three leaders of the schools have been working as cohorts together around some issues involving charter schools. They have been visiting schools and seeing their expectations so we have a clear sense of what our students in sixth grade will need when they graduate.

- **Presentation/Sean Rahim-Building & Facilities**

City of Cambridge inspectional services recommends some of our updates like testing our water for lead and copper.

The beginning of the summer we added a new wall in the technology classroom that is a white board.

They renovated the janitor closets with new drains and waterproofed them.

Replaced basement windows. Then we replaced all original wood windows in all ground level offices and added new air conditioners in the cafeteria, and the executive director's office.

Created new SPED learning center and a new kitchen space for the teachers in the basement.

Jenepher Gooding motioned to adjourn the meeting, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.