

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Held in the Ogletree Library at BBCPS
March 21, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Janel Granum, and Josiane Julmeus.

Visitors: Jen Gordon Librarian, Sean Best Physical Ed, Catherine Marino Music teacher, Charles Kellman and Miyolene St. Germain, Art teachers.

Absent: Charline Alexander-Joseph, Dehlia Umunna, Michelle Crawford, and Jenepher Gooding.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Lin Tucker motioned to approve the February minutes, Shane Buker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

There is not many changes in the financials from last month. The surplus is up because of the five additional Cambridge students at higher tuition rates. Our full-time nurse retired and there has been some staffing changes. Health insurance costs have been trending below budget. There is a fixed asset change over the summer with increased depreciation. This year we will up the vision plan from \$250 per individual to \$500, and for a family it will be \$1,000 in coverage. Also, we will look at better dental insurance coverage.

- **Approve Capital Plan**

The wiring has to happen in order to do the HVAC upgrade. The digital wiring project will be done to allow for technology upgrades. The elevator will be expensive to install and the chair lift isn't replaceable, they don't make them any longer. The banners are getting old and need to be replaced and the kitchen hasn't been upgrades in years. We don't have a lot of outdoor space but there is a small area that you can't use for parking, and we could use the space for the younger grades, which would free up the larger space for upper grades. If we do the improvements that we need, and upgrade the building this will help us negotiate the lease with the church. The school would like to set aside \$2.5 million dollars to do the upgrades to our school building.

Lin Tucker motioned to approve the capital plan as presented here tonight, Shane Buker seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Budget**

In the FY20 proposed budget it will include a scale increase of 1% and 1% of the people on scale and an increase of 4% off scale. We have submitted a higher pre enrollment than the 185 Cambridge students we budgeted for. There is always attrition we will usually attrit 10 to 12 Cambridge students. The school is being conservative and we flatlined the tuition rate which usually goes up every year. The school won't know the exact tuition rate until June. Student activities and instructional programs have gone up so there are increases in those areas.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

The Pozon Prize people will be here in the morning to tour the school from 8:30-10:30 am.

The award is for \$80,000 and given to Charter Schools that are innovative. The team will meet with leadership and then observe a first and third grade class. Our school is one of two schools they are considering for the award, the other school is Boston Conservatory.

March, 26th is game night at the school. April 2nd is the Spaghetti Dinner, Spring concert @ 6:00 pm on April 11th. K-2 Show is on April 25th and is on the same night as the Board meeting.

Specialist Presentation (Art)

Miyolene St. Germain and Mr. Kellman are the art teachers, in kindergarten the younger students need to focus on motor skills. They focused on how to hold a pencil, and practice with scissors. They worked on color theory and brush technique. First and second grades art classes were crafted around students study of animals and their environments. The second grade also did a self portrait of themselves.

Students in the fifth grade were introduced to paper mache as a material to create the planets. Students have been focused on outer space, and the solar system. In sixth grade students are introduced to Greek and Roman architecture.

Librarian

Ms. Gordon's main focus is literature appreciation, she loves books and read alouds. Ms. Gordon is a member of the Adventure Club, and the Banneker school band. Ms Gordon likes to do centers around STEAMS. She does reading and activity groups with the second grade. They are reading "A Wrinkle in Time" series.

Music

Ms. Marino has been here at the school for five years. Her goal is getting the students to sing whether they have a good singing voice or not. They sing, they dance, play instruments, and learn to read musical notation.

One of the main objectives in K-2 is working on beat competency, if you don't have a great beat it can affect your gait in how you walk or move. With third grade they do a big study on instruments. Fourth grade is working on composing in all different ways. Ms. Marino does a fourth grade musical every year and the Winter concert is a community event. She hosts an instrument petting zoo every year. The Spring Concert this year is on April 11th, and its focused around movies. Next week is a field trip to BSO. **Physical**

Education

Mr. Best teaches building brain cells through physical activity, and getting to know your body. Students in kindergarten through second grade participate in activities that emphasize basic locomotor movements along with fine motor skills. Mr. Best plays robotag its a remote control Fitness Friday and Field Day

Social Studies and Technology

The students are doing coding and robotics. spheros races with the ipad. Sixth grade media crew Social awareness projects with sixth grade. The students choose a topic or cause to get involved.

Ms. Hicks started the engineering club and they explore engineering concepts. They are focusing on rovers right now because sixth grade is using rovers for STEAM this year.

Janel Granum motioned to adjourn the meeting, Josiane Julmeus seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.