

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
May 23, 2019

Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Jenepher Gooding, Janel Granum, Josiane Julmeus.

Visitors: No Visitors.

Absent: Michelle Crawford, and Dehlia Umunna.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Janel Granum motioned to approve the April minutes, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

The financials are basically the same as last month. The variance and forecast are identical to last month's.

- **Board Meeting Dates**

The Board meetings are set for the next school year.

Janel Granum motioned to approve the Board Meeting Dates for school year 19-20, Deb Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Change By-Laws**

The Board would like to reduce the minimum number of Board members from 10 to 7 given the stability of the school and the long-term commitment of the Board. The reduction doesn't change the maximum allowable number of Board members (15).

As per section 3.2 of the Benjamin Banneker Charter School By-Laws, revised December 2013, The school shall have no less than seven (7) Trustees and no more than (15) Trustees, unless the Board determines otherwise.

Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve to reduce the minimum number of trustees on the Board from ten (10) to seven (7), Janel Granum seconded the motion all approved.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

The Banneker was named 2019 Pozen Prize Winner. Our school has been selected as the winner of the sixth Annual Pozen Prize for Innovative Schools in Massachusetts. The Pozen Prize is awarded to one school annually, chosen through a rigorous school selection process.

Our selection as the 2019 Pozen Prize winner is a tribute to our staff, students, parents and community. MCAS is over and we should start receiving the data in a few weeks. Some of the students found it hard and some were crying.

Cambridge Cohort meeting and the Art Show is on May 30th. June 1st is the carnival and June 11th is STEAMS Expo and it is open until 6:30pm. Sixth grade graduation is on June 14th and the kindergarten graduation is on June 17th. June 18th is Banneker fun day and the last day of school is June 19th.

- **Business Office Presentation**

This year we asked for a two-year extension on the lease because we wanted the lease to line up with our charter renewal. After this lease it will be a twenty year lease with a five year extension. The school wants first option to buy or renew. The church will consider all the capital improvements as we build the lease. The school is also negotiating to lease a room in their building because we are thinking of adding a daycare for staff, but there are a lot of pieces to put in place before we are ready to go in September. The school has put away 2.5 million dollars to do improvements over the next five years.

The business office handles Finance, Human Resources and Accountability but our main focus is supporting the employees what they need in terms of benefits, FMLA, or short term disability.

The authorities that go into the policies and procedures is to avoid fraud. That is what the audit is for every year and that is the biggest thing they look at and our school is doing great. The State has a financial dashboard and this is what they grade us on. They use colors to grade schools such as green, yellow or red. For the past six years we have been green which is the best and all our audits have been good.

The public schools don't have the same accountability as charter schools. The charter schools have more freedom but public schools don't get audited.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.