

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board Retreat/ Meeting Minutes**  
**Held in the Ogletree Library at BBCPS**  
**January 24, 2019**

**Board Retreat with John Tarvin 5:00pm-7:00pm**

Review Board obligations and discuss the role of the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

John Tarvin's presentation and forms are available on request.

**Meeting called to order at 7:05pm.**

**Attendees:** Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Jenepher Gooding, Janel Granum, Jenepher Gooding, and Michelle Crawford.

**Absent:** Dehlia Umunna, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, and Josianne Julmeus.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

*Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve the December minutes, Michelle Crawford seconded the motion, all approved.*

**Board Business:**

- **Financials**

The school is spending less on health insurance this year with savings of about a \$140,000. In the spring we don't know what the student rates are going to be so we budgeted much higher than what we needed. The trend for health insurance is really high so that is how we budgeted, but fortunately we didn't need all that money. The school also has five additional Cambridge students so with all these factors we have a larger surplus than we budgeted.

The school has three criteria around approving staff bonuses. One is around enrollment which we have exceeded, the other is around our academic success, and we have shown you the MCAS data, and clearly we are going in the right direction. The third is fiscal responsibility and ability. The school doesn't pay the same as Cambridge or Boston Public schools so this is an incentive for our staff. The staff that receives the bonus this year is the same staff that we employed here last year, staff that are new hires this year don't get the bonus.

*Lin Tucker motioned to approve the bonuses for 63 staff members for \$2,500 each, Janel Granum seconded the motion, all approved.*

*Deb Del Dotto motioned to approve Jenepher Gooding as the Board Clerk, Michelle Crawford seconded the motion, all approved.*

**Executive Director's Report:**

- **School Update**

The Martin Luther King Assembly is scheduled for tomorrow at 1:00pm and the Board is invited to attend. The Banneker Beat is a dance group at the school and they will be performing.

The school has started MCAS after-school on Monday and Wednesdays. The school gets double dinged by DESE for students who are in the lowest 25% in ELA and Math. The school gets criteria for four pieces. There is a score for all students, but the score for the lowest performing student is counted twice, then attendance is counted and growth. The school has restructured MCAS after-school and has put the lowest 25% at the top of the list.

IReady is a test that we give the students, but the problem is it is very expensive. The school purchases the assessment tools so we give it to the students three times a year. There is a program called IReady lessons and each student gets a customized assessment made for them.

The school purchased IReady two years ago for MCAS after-school and liked it so much we bought it last year for grades 3-6 and this year we purchased for all students. Grades 1-6 takes it three times a year and kindergarten is just mid-year. The school uses it for the data meetings and growth data meeting.

*Shane Buker motioned to adjourn the meeting, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 8:05pm.