

# **BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**

## **Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Held in the Ogletree Library at BBCPS February 28, 2019**

**Meeting called to order at 6:05pm.**

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Jenepher Gooding, Josianne Julmeus, and Michelle Crawford.

**Visitors:** No visitors.

**Absent:** Deb Del Dotto, Dehlia Ummuna, and Janel Granum.

### **Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

*Charline Joseph-Alexandre motioned to approve the January minutes, Michelle Crawford seconded the motion, all approved.*

### **Board Business:**

- **Financials**

The financials look good. The additional surplus is coming from the extra 5 Cambridge students at a higher tuition rate. The school hasn't found a replacement nurse yet. Health insurance costs are trending below budget.

The school is looking to improve the cost of vision benefits a lot of the staff wear glasses, and the insurance we currently have only covers \$250.00.

The school building needs work including new wiring, a new elevator, and a updated parking lot. Also, exterior stairs, railings, and update the attic for storage. Along with a new kitchen and floors, plus windows need replacing. At the next meeting we would like the Board to vote on accepting the Capital Plan so we can put two million dollars away into a reserve, and then put it into an account dedicated to facilities. This is a five year plan.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

- **School Report**

The leader of CCSC Caleb, and the leader of PHA Angela, meet every few months with the Charter School Association. They talk about Cambridge trends and what is happening in the city. They would like Banneker School to be in the forefront because our school is doing well academically and financially. CCSC and PHA are larger schools and the Cap is really affecting them. PHA and CCSC have been hit with a Cap of 80/20. Eighty students are coming from their ascending district(Cambridge) and 20 percent from other ascending districts. The law that came out in 2010 was not designed with charter schools in mind and it is very vague. We are arguing that an 80% cap is not fair or equitable. If our school went to 80% Cap we would surpass the cap and those students don't exist. How can they hold us to a standard that we can't maintain.

The school can get the students in from Cambridge but then we won't get paid for them because we are at our Cap. Our school was chartered in 1996 and should be grandfathered in from this clause. The school pays a fee to MCSA and we want their lawyers to fight this battle and get the MCSA to back our argument up.

Retirement is coming up and we should start at building a pool to help cover those looking to retire down the line. Charter schools are not willing to put the money towards retirement programs for non teaching staff. We're looking to get our school into a pension program and we will continue to have Banneker remain independent.

- **Announcements**

Some school events that are coming up, the Spelling Bee is tomorrow, Some of the Prospect Hill Academy staff will be visiting us for a Tech Camp next Tuesday. Game night Tuesday March 26th at 6:00pm, and Spaghetti Dinner is April 2nd at 6:00pm. Food pantry is opened at parent meetings.

- **DESE Forms/Due Dates**

Outlines the dates that financial disclosure forms, COI summary, and Open Meeting Law forms are due to DESE.

## **K-2 Presentation**

- **Animal Project-** 2nd grades presentation, art collaboration, and create creatures and animals with clay, and create backdrops. This is also a home-school collaboration because they bring their poster boards home to work on them. Other students come to look at the second grade projects and second graders are super excited to explain their project, and the animals they picked.

- **Updates**

The Crayons to Cradle program contacted the school about doing a program that involves giving necessities to our children. Parents that are interested are required to fill out a form for their children. Starting in March each child will get a bundle of clothes, shoes, toys, and art supplies. Also, if you are having a baby or currently have a baby, they will supply you with a bundle with wipes and other things for babies.

- **Curriculum**

Adopt ELA/Math- I-Ready assessments, last year was a pilot and this year it is in place. K-6 basically gets the same assessment and we are looking at all the data, and we can track all the students growth.

The school continues to focus on school wide differentiation instruction, and we are creating new ways to increase reading and writing opportunities.

We continue to increase the use of technology and art in content areas.

Overall we are seeing growth but by the end of the year we hope to see 100% growth. So we have two measures for IReady, one is performance level, and the other is growth. In this assessment every student gets a growth measure. So when looking at student data with teachers we expect students to be at grade level or above grade level, because if we don't they will always be behind.

*Josiane Julmeus motioned to adjourn the meeting, Michelle Crawford seconded the motion, all approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.