

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
December 6, 2018

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

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Jenepher Gooding, and Josianne Julmeus.

**Visitors:** No visitors.

*Dehlia Umunna is participating remotely due to illness, The Board can hear her and she can hear the meeting.*

**Absent:** Charline Alexandre-Joseph, Janel Granum, Lin Tucker, and Michelle Crawford.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

*Shane Buker motioned to approve the November minutes, Josiane Julmeus seconded the motion, all approved.*

**Board Business:**

- **Board Retreat**

The retreat will take place on Thursday, January 24, 2019 starting at 5:00pm in the library. The school will reach out to Claremont Consulting to see if John Tarvin is available. The Board would like more information about DESE, and what they do, and what they expect from us.

- **DESE Visit**

Dehlia Umunna, Shane Buker and Jenepher Gooding represented the Board at the meeting with DESE.

The visit went well and there were a few things they would like us to focus on. They would like us to publish agenda 48 hours prior to the meeting by sending it to the City of Cambridge so they can post it. Most of the meeting revolved around governance of the Board and rules that should be followed. The Finance Committee meetings aren't considered open because it's a conference call. There were questions about how we keep attendance, and how many members we have, and that went well. A few of the members might be missing their conflict of interest acknowledgement statement and that is supposed to be emailed by DESE to our members.

DESE thinks are ELL numbers were very low. Parents self identify, and the point of the matter is they don't want their children considered an ELL student. The school does assessments that identify ELL's.

DESE said our enrollment was over by 4 students, but we have families with siblings so sometimes our enrollment is a little over, but usually by the end of the first trimester we average about 350 students or less because of attrition.

DESE wants a Succession Plan in place, and we have one, it just needs to be updated.

They were actually doing a core site visit one criteria being "Are we faithful to the charter" and the Mission of the school. The other being do we have instructional practices that have high expectations, and do we give students equal access, and also an upward trajectory. They basically told us we were in compliance in both areas. Eight teachers were picked to be in a group that DESE interviewed and that went well.

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

- **School Update**

Ms. Bretous thanked the Board for participating in the Holiday Gift Giving Program for our families. Coming up is our Christmas Party on December 15, 2018 @ 7:00pm at Anthony's Restaurant in Malden and the Board is invited with guests. The Winter concert is on Thursday 12/20, @6:00pm.

- **Banneker Experience (Chris Smith)**

Mr. Smith is the TA Cluster Leader, Banneker Bolts coach, Adventure Club leader, and has been working here at the school for 5 years.

The Bolts runs twice a week on Monday and Fridays and run on Saturdays from the beginning of September and to the last week in October. The students are from grades 3-6 and they run in Brockton every week around a lake, and the course is about 2 and half miles long.

In Adventure Club the students get to experience successes that aren't in the classroom. They go hiking, snowboarding, horseback riding, snow tubing, and other outside activities.

TA meetings are about 6 times a year, get together and brainstorm next door in the church space.

"Socktober" starts in the month of October and is run by the TA's. They collect non perishable food items, and socks, and then donate them to a local homeless shelter. Last Year we collected 80 lbs of food, and 120 pair of socks to donate.

Playworks is run by the TA's for recess. There is always one game played every recess on the blacktop.

With Playworks in place there is less fighting, and accidents, students can run around and be safe.

*Jenepher Gooding motioned to adjourn the meeting, Josiane Julmeus seconded the motion, all approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.