

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2014

Meeting called to order at 6:00p.m.

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, James Becker, Sherley Bretous Carre' (Executive Director, ex-officio), Bruce Ward, Ivy Washington, Lenora Jennings, Lin Tucker, and Deborah Del Dotto.

Visitors: Justin Martin, director of external relations, Gloria Mylyk, school accountant, Sean Best, physical education, Jennifer Gordon, librarian, Charles Kellman, art teacher, and Catherine Marino, music teacher.

Absent: Anita Burke-Johnson, Jean French, Dehlia Umunna, and Atinuke Diver.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Jimmy Becker motioned to approve the November minutes, Bruce Ward seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

The Board doesn't want to use the pie charts in the financial statement anymore, and they asked Cindy to leave them out. The forecast is using the first five months, which is the same as the actuals, so the first five months of the fiscal year are shown in the actuals. That has been updated since last month's numbers, and the forecast is the same. The current enrollment is 128 Cambridge students, with 348 total enrollment.

Board Roles and Responsibilities

The school is in a great place right now. The Board and school leadership are in excellent shape, and the school is in good academic standing. Some of the responsibilities of the Board are strategic planning, evaluating the executive director, overseeing policies and budget, public relations and fundraising. Fundraising hasn't been an issue for us in the past because we always could meet our operating expenses and we don't have that issue. The Board feels that fundraising isn't a high priority that we need a serious reason and purpose to ask people for money.

An important date that is coming up is our charter review and then the school's 20th anniversary, "Founder's Day" and what do we do to make it successful. It will be great day to celebrate how far the school has come and accomplished, also it will help to cultivate people who don't know about the school.

- **Vision Statement**

Last year the Board discussed the Vision Statement and updated the Mission Statement. The Mission Statement is about what our stated objectives are, and outcomes that we are committed to working towards as a Board. The Mission is what we do everyday and the Vision is what we aspire to do. The Vision Statement is where we see ourselves, and will we be successful five or ten years down the line.

Executive Director's Report:

School Update

Curriculum night was on Tuesday and we introduced PARCC to the parents. We had a center that they could do the PARCC assessment on line. It was interesting to see some of the reactions of the parents to the test.

Ms. Bretous went to a conference last week on Cape Cod that was focused on the book by Dr. Chen and Dr. Green called "High Expectations of Students" It was excellent and would like to share the book with staff and the Board.

The school has collected \$3,100 for the holiday fund so far and has decided to do things a little different this year.

We have eleven homeless families this year, and the school has decided to give them gift cards so they can buy food and clothes.

Specialists Presentation:

Sean Best (Physical Education)

Mr. Best has been teaching here at the Banneker for twelve years. Students meet with him once a week for 45 minutes. Mr. Best works with the Adventure Club in providing outdoor experiences year round for our 5th and 6th grade students. In the winter months Mr. Best gets creative with his indoor space with floor hockey, obstacle courses and “Fitness Friday”.

Jennifer Gordon (Librarian)

Books are Ms. Gordon’s passion and she wants to share that with her students. Her goal for them is to leave the library loving books and reading. She focuses on what she calls “library citizenship” which is book care. On the side of her desk there is an overflowing red bin, which is called the “book hospital” where students bring the books to be repaired. The library does a lot of “Read Alouds” every month. Ms. Gordon also joins the Adventure Club every month, which helps her build strong relationships with the kids. Scholastic Book Club was at the school this week.

Sean Best for Anita Hicks (Technology)

Students meet with Ms. Hicks for 45 minutes each week where they learn everything from navigating a website to creating documentaries. Currently Ms. Hicks is working with the teacher associates so they can teach social studies, and they are doing amazing things.

Ms. Hicks runs the Banneker Bolts, our cross-country team, which has about 26 members. The team started out slow, but now they all can run three miles.

Charles Kellman (Art)

Mr. Kellman teaches studio arts to the entire student body. Ms. Etienne came to Mr. Kellman a few years ago and asked him to broaden the curriculum on history and social studies because it was so lacking. So Mr. Kellman took on the history part and last year they did a whole piece on ancient Egypt. Now they know a lot more about the Middle East and why ISIS is there.

The students paint backdrops for the school productions and they are huge. One was “Go West” and another was “Mid Summer’s Dream” and they did a beautiful job.

Catherine Marino (Music)

This is Ms. Marino’s first year at the Banneker, she spent a year teaching ESL and social studies in a remote forest in Africa. Here at the Banneker she pursues her love for instrumental music and passion for fundamental music. All students have General Music class once a week, and there are additional musical ensemble choices for older students. Every class that she teaches includes other subjects. For example, the fifth grade is starting class with music and math. There is a map in her classroom and every piece of music that she teaches is given a geological, and cultural context. With every song there is a specific point why it is taught and she will always inform the students where it is from, and something about the culture.

Ivy Washington motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jimmy Becker seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.