

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2014

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

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, James Becker, Sherley Bretous Carre' (Executive Director, ex-officio), Bruce Ward, Jean French, Ivy Washington, Lenora Jennings, Atinuke Diver, Lin Tucker, Dehlia Umunna and Anita Burke-Johnson.

Visitors: Jared Perrine, technology director, Caitlin Robbie, third grade co-teacher, Carrissa Hanagriff, third grade co-teacher, Virginia Simon, fifth grade teacher, Bennie Wilson, fourth grade teacher assistant, Carolyn Brown, sixth grade teacher, and Carrie Wilson, third grade teacher.

Absent: Deborah Del Dotto.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Ivy Washington motioned to approve the October minutes, Jimmy Becker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

These are same financials as last month with no surprises. We updated the forecast based on more recent numbers in terms of enrollment. The forecast now reflects 120 Cambridge students with total enrollment at 346.

- **Board Goals 2014-2015**

The Board has updated and changed their goals from last year.

Jean French motioned to approve the goals for 2014-2015 school year, Jimmy Becker seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Board Meeting Dates**

Bruce Ward motioned to approve to change the May Board Meeting date from May 28th to May 21, 2015, Atinuke Diver seconded the motion, all approved.

Executive Director's Report:

School Update

This is our second year of video taping the staff. The taping consists of a twenty-minute instruction with a lesson plan and reflection. As a team we watched the tapings and then give the teachers feedback. It was interesting when the team started watching the videos, they started seeing trends, and one of the trends was delivery of instruction. They spent a great deal of time around content, and curriculum that align with the common core, and that assessments align with PARCC. This cycle we noticed that methodology (type of teaching) was an issue, and so the CIS team has been studying different models of instruction. Although the teachers don't like the video taping, it is very helpful to us to be able to pause and look back on the session. The team is hoping to build a library on what best practices look like so new teachers can come in and learn from them.

Ms. Hicks has been working with the teacher assistants around technology and social studies.

- **One to One Presentation**

- **(Third grade) Ms. Robbie and Ms. Hanagriff (co-teachers)**

- The biggest way the laptops support the classroom is they give the teachers increased opportunities to differentiate instruction and give targeted learning opportunities to the entire class.

- In ELA the 1:1 laptop program helps us with the struggling learners who are having a difficult time with their reading comprehension and the organization with their writing. Pebble Go and RAZ Kids are subscriptions that enable us to target reading assignments and reading lessons for students.

(Fourth grade) Mr. Wilson

Mr. Wilson gave an example to the Board of the work they are doing in fourth grade on the laptops from a program called Socrative. Students are able to track their progress on the computer screen with a rocket ship. The faster they answer the correct question, the faster they go on their rocket ship.

(Fifth grade) Ms. Simon

The laptops come out first thing in the morning for a math program called IXL, the reason IXL works well with the fifth grade is because it gives them instant feedback, and it is gratifying for them to see their score go up instead of waiting for someone to tell you that you are doing a great job. In addition there is Learnzillion, which is a website that has some great math teaching videos. Parents are excited that students have access to the laptops and are learning new math skills.

(Sixth grade) Ms. Brown

The first thing in the morning when the teacher arrives she unlocks the laptops and then sixth grade receives their morning work assignments via email. Once a week they do current event work. The teacher picks a topic that will be of interest to them and then send them a link of a video to watch, an article that they read, and then ask them to think about it, write about it, and discuss it. One of the topics was about Ebola and that kept them engaged and talking.

- **Three Year Technology Plan**

One of the updates is the Innovation lab, it gets the students thinking more about the engineering and design process.

The school has lived up to the technology mission and provided a bountiful supply of state-of-the-art computers to our employees and students. During the last three-year cycle the focus was on adding mobile learning devices (iPads, iPad Minis, and Macbook Pros) for the school. During this three-year cycle, we will be embracing technologies that encourage students to be involved in creation, design, and online research and collaboration. We also plan to open up parent portal on our Powerschool student information system, allowing them access to grades, behavior reports, attendance record, medical information, and family demographics.

Atinuke Diver motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ivy Washington seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned 8:15pm.