

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:03p.m.

Attendees: Darnell Thigpen Williams, James Becker, Sherley Bretous Carre' (Executive Director, ex-officio), Jean French, Ivy Washington, Lin Tucker, Deborah Del Dotto, Anita Burke-Johnson, and Dehlia Umunna.

Visitors: Seema Racela, speech language pathologist, and Angela Marre, ESL teacher.

Absent: Lenora Jennings, Bruce Ward, and Atinuke Diver.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Jean French motioned to approve the January minutes, Deborah Del Dotto seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

There will be a Learning Walk Tour at the school on March 16th from 9:00-11:00am. The Board is encouraged to attend. It gives the Board a chance to see the great things that are going on in the school, and show their support.

- **Financials**

The school was waiting on reimbursement rates for Cambridge and Boston. The current forecast includes what we now know about the rates. The rates are higher than they were in the past and that is why we still have a substantial surplus. The surplus includes the bonuses we previously discussed at the last meeting. The forecast still has the same enrollment projection.

- **Governance**

The Executive Board members are Darnell Thigpen Williams (Chair), Atinuke Diver (Co-Chair), and Ivy Washington (Treasurer). They have been in these positions for two years or longer. Darnell would like to know if any other members would be interested in filling these positions. If no other members are interested Darnell has offered to stay in the Chair position for another year and Ivy would stay as Treasurer or would consider taking another position. At minimum we need a new Co-Chair.

Executive Director's Report:

Lin Tucker wanted to share with the Board a book called Visible Learning. Amanda Van Vleck, one of our fourth grade teachers, is featured as one of the six primary examples in this book. It has become an online course at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and their continuing education. There are people from all over the world, teams from Australia, Japan, India and America that will be reading and looking at this work.

School Update

Due to all the snow days the school has used the 6th grade and kindergarten graduation has been moved to Wednesday, June 24th, kindergarten will be at 9:00am, and 6th grade will be at 6:00pm.

1. School Survey

The survey serves a few purposes. One is to see as a school how well we are doing, and the other is to see how the Executive Director is doing. This year we did a couple of tests in the questionnaire. We had questions with five choices so there would be a middle ground and some questions only had four choices so people had to make a decision. Ms. Bretous talked to various staff about their opinion of the survey and

what questions they liked. The teachers did ask for more questions about the coaches.

The survey helps to look for any glaring problems or concerns, and to see if they continue to appear in June. If a problem continues then it's time to do an action plan. Ms. Bretous is using this survey to gauge what to include in the "End of the Year" survey.

The Board thinks that the survey appears to be long, the output is hard to read and follow. The line charts are confusing and the format is poor. It's unclear what the numbers mean. A simpler format might work better. The school pays for the Survey Monkey format and it's not easily changed. A suggestion is to outsource the survey.

SPED Presentation (Speaking with Confidence Club)

This is a voluntary club, and students meet once a week during lunch periods and recess periods.

They work on various activities to build their confidence for public speaking, speaking to small groups, or speaking one on one. Fifth and sixth grade students that were involved in ESL, or speech and language services were targeted for the program. The club felt they would benefit the most from this kind of help. It was then opened up to teachers who suggested other students who might need this kind of help to join.

They are using a teaching guide developed by Dr. Steven Lewis. The club started with ten students and then three pulled out for personal reasons. This is not easy for them, they are being video taped and they have to watch themselves on the tape after.

The hope for the future is that the students in the club gain confidence not only to speak in public, but help to achieve their future goals.

Dehlia Umunna motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ivy Washington seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.