

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2015

Meeting called to order at 6:02p.m.

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

Visitors: Heather Martin, literacy coach and Lynette Culverhouse, math coach.

Absent: Anita Burke-Johnson

Public Comment: There were no public comments.

Deborah Del Dotto motioned to approve the December minutes with a small amendment, Lenora Jennings seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

Atinuke Diver has given her notice to the Board that she will be stepping down at the end of the school year, she is moving to North Carolina.

- **Financials**

The budget shows a healthy surplus for the year of 428,440. The school budgeted for 115 Cambridge students and we currently have 127 Cambridge. Tuition revenue is 100,00 more than we thought so between salary savings and tuition rates the surplus has gone up. Ms. Bretons has asked the Board to give the staff a bonus this year with the excess surplus.

Jean French motioned to approve that the staff receive a \$2,000 bonus, Bruce Ward seconded the motion, all approved.

Disclosure Forms

The majority of the Board completed their disclosure forms.

- **Vision Statement**

Ms. Bretous has agreed to make some minor changes to the Vision statement and will send out the revised statement to the Board.

Darnell Thigpen Williams will set up a walking tour of the school for any Board members that would like to participate. The school will send out a time and date soon.

Dehlia Umunna motioned to approve the Vision Statement as discussed here tonight with some amendments, Lenora Jennings seconded the motion, all approved.

Executive Director's Report:

School Update

There was a Board donation that funded the sixth grade DC trip for seven students and it was greatly appreciated.

- **PARCC**

The school got accepted for the second grade diagnostic PARCC assessment, which this will be good for second grade to get familiar with the test. The computer automatically shuts down the test after 45 minutes. Students are becoming familiar with the format of PARCC, the students assignments are going home looking more like the PARCC.

The PARCC test is coming up in March. The Banneker is doing great things and we believe the students have the skills for the test. The teachers don't think students will have a problem with the content of the test but maybe with their computer skills.

- **K-2 ELA**

Over the past few years we have strived as a curriculum team for collaboration, continuity, and academic success. We made a lot of improvements this year. The first improvement was over the summer when we uploaded the majority of all the reading and writing units to Edwin Teaching and Learning. This is a warehouse that is funded by Thinkgate, that a lot of districts in Massachusetts are using, it houses our curriculum. Any teacher, no matter what grade they are, can go into the warehouse and pull up all their units. They still have a choice in terms on how they want to teach, and maybe what resource they want to use, but this gives them a descriptive outline that gives them every lesson that they need to do. This is a way to have everything in one place that is connected to the common core, and it has all the state standards. It is nice to have a place online that stores our information.

- **K-2 Math**

Lynette Culverhouse introduced Rocket Math, which teaches math facts. It has been a great resource because a lot of the students struggle with math facts. Rocket Math is a uniquely structured curriculum for practice and mastery of math facts. Students have 10 minutes a day of math facts practice. When students reach their goal they go on to a higher level with larger numbers. Second grade writes in their journal every day and are encouraged to write down what they are thinking when they confront a problem in their journal. There is intervention if a student is struggling in math. There is an assessment to determine who needs intervention.

Lin Tucker motioned to adjourn the meeting; Ivy Washington seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.