

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Held in the Ogletree Library at the school
February 27, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:05p.m.

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Janel Granum, Lin Tucker, and Tirsit Habetamariam.

Visitors: Dr. Kathleen Horrocks, Director of Special Education.

Absent: Josiane Julmeus, and Jenepher Gooding.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Shane Buker motioned to approve the minutes for January, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

Finances look great with not a lot of changes. There is some additional money from tuition. Originally we budgeted for 185 Cambridge students and we currently have 193 Cambridge students. This is why we have a surplus of \$300,000.

- **Enrollment by Towns**

There are 193 Cambridge students, and Boston is currently at 55 students, followed by Everett (18), Malden (11) and Medford (11).

- **Updated Wellness Policy**

The school added some changes to the first paragraph, and legal references had to be added in. The policy must be added to our Parent Handbook and be available online.

Janel Granum motioned to approve the Wellness Policy as discussed here tonight, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.

- **Updated Civil Rights Policy**

It basically says we will follow the law and not discriminate against race, creed or gender. If someone feels they are being discriminated against in any way there is a process in place that is available to them.

Shane Buker motioned to approve the Civil Rights Policy as presented here tonight, Janel Granum seconded it, all approved.

These policies are regarding the school lunch review and had to be approved at this meeting because they are due to

DESE on March 12, 2020.

- **Vote on Staff Bonuses**

The Board has agreed to this bonus to staff because our school can't meet the 10% raise that is given to Cambridge Public school teachers. So this is another way to compensate employees. This is for staff that has been employed here at the school for at least one year.

Lin Tucker motioned to approve the staff bonuses for \$2,500 for each staff member, Shane Buker seconded the motion, all approved.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

Ms. Bretous was on Fox 25 news about students and women of color in the STEM program. According to federal labor data african american women account for less than 3% of the STEM workforce. Ms. Bretous showed a clip of dancing that the Banneker Beats did inspired by the movie Harriet Tubman. Another clip was shown to the trip to Guatemala that staff took over February vacation.

- **SPED Presentation (Dr. Horrocks)**

There are currently 51 special education students here at the Banneker which is 14.7 percent of our population. Enrollment of English Language Learners is 17 students. Eligibility for SPED is largely based on a communication disability, and the next one is learning disability, a few are developmental delay and one is intellectual impairment. Home languages that are spoken at home is Hatian Creole, Amharic, Arabic, Spanish, and Twi (Ghana).

Teachers are using a reading system called Wilson Reading system for learning phonics. Students are exposed to rich vocabulary and decodable, controlled text through a variety of activities. They are teaching strategies to be successful in the classroom and in the Learning Center. Remembering math facts isn't easy for our students, so instead of stressing memorization we encourage strategies to help by using the "3-times table", and unifix cubes.

The SPED students are going to move up the grades no matter what happens, but not all of them will be solid on how to decode and encode. They look at a multisyllable word and still can't do it. A student with difficulties in decoding and reading fluency receives instruction on how to chunk words, word phrases and then entire passages in order to increase fluency.

Shane Buker motioned to adjourn the meeting, Janel Granum seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.