

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Held in the Ogletree Library at the school
January 23, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:10p.m.

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Jenepher Gooding, Josiane Julmeus, and Tirsit Habtemariam.

Visitors: Heather Martin-Steenburg, Literacy Coach, and Tasheika Johnson, Math Coach.

Absent: Janel Granum.

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

Shane Buker motioned to approve the minutes, Josiane Julmeus seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

- **Financials**

There is a surplus in tuition, and this is due to a change in the enrollment. The school gained 15 then lost 8 Boston students, and then gained 2 Cambridge students. The Cambridge reimbursement is actually down in comparison to past years and this hasn't happened in a long time. Note that Cambridge is currently \$27, 455 per student. The additional \$20,000 in contracted services is offset by a reduction in personnel.

Executive Director's Report:

- **School Update**

MCAS afterschool has begun, and students with a higher need are invited into the program. Enrollment for the program is currently at 78 students. The school provides a snack, and dinner. Students meet twice a week on Mondays and Wednesdays. Access testing has started for our ELL, SPED, and ESL students. Fitness Fridays are currently being held, and the students are very excited about it. Students participate in physical education activities hosted by staff volunteers for 60 minute intervals of intense group activity.

Upcoming School Events:

Parent Meeting/ Food market- January 28th @6:00pm.

January 30th- 4th grade musical @6:00pm.

February 14th Valentine's Day Spelling Bee/ Banneker Beats @ 1:15pm in the studio.

2nd grade Animal Research Project on February 13, 2020 from 8:00-10:00am.

Bonuses: Ms. Bretous is requesting bonuses for staff based on school performance. (call to a vote for next board meeting) take a look at the budget in order to approve and (add to next agenda).

- **K-2 Presentation (Heather Martin-Steenburgh and Tasheika Johnson)**

Heather Martin presented ELA personal narratives, and Ms. Johnson brought in the math journals. In second grade the students have given feedback to their friends in peer reviews, and positive feedback in sharing. Kindergarten wrote letters to NASA astronauts and they received a response, which was so exciting for them.

Mid year highlights:

The school uses primarily Iready now but we also use benchmark data in ELA. Kindergarten just took their first Iready test. Iready is the assessment the school has adopted and it is computerized testing. It assesses math, reading, phonics, vocabulary, informational, and fictional stories. Testing happens three times a year at the beginning of the year, mid year, and end of year). For Math there is a multiple choice or short answer. The good thing about it is that it gives a growth measure for every student. Expectations for all students is to make at least one year's growth.

The classroom teachers have three data driven goals (Math/ELA/Science) and one personal goal. Teachers continue to use coaches to support differentiation. Teachers are encouraged to actively show and talk about making Science real for all students. Teachers have smart goals they set for themselves at the beginning of the year.

At their end of the year meeting Ms. Bretous will touch upon their teacher observations and if they completed their smart goals for the year. An example of a smart goal is for ELA and Math students should be on or above grade level. A personal teacher goal would be to enhance their communication with parents or to send home a monthly newsletter.

Every classroom must have an updated bulletin board, art work, or something in every content area visible that students can see and relate to.

In Math Ms. Johnson tells the students that mistakes are expected, respected, and accepted. The teachers did a training in making mistakes something *wonderful*, and they model that in the classroom.

K-2 does the Animal Research Project every year. Kindergarten, first and fifth grade visit the Boston Aquarium. Then in kindergarten they study Arctic animals like the penguins. In first grade they are doing Jaguars, and learned that the Jaguars spots are called rosettes. The Author's celebration is done every year from K-6 and the parents come to listen to their children's writing. This year we are celebrating black history month in February, and students will be doing poetry.

The observations have been really helpful on how teachers are presenting across all grades, meeting every need for all students, and reaching them at all levels. Data meetings also have helped in brainstorming and sharing plans, curriculum, and data trends.

Josianne Julmeus motioned to adjourn the meeting, Jenepher Gooding seconded the motion, all approved.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35pm.