

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
**Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**Meetings are held in the Ogletree Library at the school**  
November 21, 2019

**Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m.**

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

**Visitors:** Jen Gordon, (Librarian) Miyolene St. Germain, (Art Teacher) Sean Best (Physical Education) Anesta Hicks, (Technology) Catherine Marino (Music Teacher).

**Absent:** Deborah Del Dotto

*Jenepher Gooding motioned to approve the October minutes, Lin Tucker seconded the motion, all approved.*

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Board Business:**

● **Financials**

Lin Tucker brought up the Vanguard account and wanted to know if we had talked to anyone about putting it someplace that was flexible enough that we could pull it out at any time. The school can pull out the money in the Vanguard account anytime it wants to, it is a money market account and we are getting amazing returns. Looking at the budget we are looking at half a year at this point, and there is no deviation from the current budget.

The enrollment remains about the same.

● **Change December Board Meeting Date**

*Lin Tucker motioned to approve the change in the December meeting date from December 5th to December 12th, Janel Granum seconded the motion, all approved.*

● **Discuss Wellness Policy/Vote Next Month**

The Board will review and discuss the Wellness Policy next month. The students have physical education once a week for 45 minutes and recess for about 30 minutes a day.

**Executive Director's Report:**

● **School Update**

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth graders are going to see the movie Harriet tomorrow at a private showing in Arlington. The Christmas Party date has changed to December 20th at Anthony's Restaurant in Malden.

A reminder email will be sent out to the Board and Staff. Next month we will do the holiday gift cards to the Staff from the Board members. Letters have been sent out to parents about the Holiday Gift Program that the school does every year.

Conservatory Lab came to visit and for a tour of the school. The Massachusetts Business Alliance came to visit and meet with Ms. Bretous regarding issues related to charter schools across Massachusetts. They wanted to see an elementary school with a STEAMS background.

DESE came to visit and learn how we have integrated arts in our program.

Ms. Bretous was asked to present at a DESE meeting in Lemonister on the topic of hiring and retaining teachers of color.

The researcher from the Pozen Prize Winners came to the school to conduct the first of two school visits.

the visits will require teacher focus groups and meetings with selected instructional leaders.

Coming in December (subject to change) is the Fourth Grade Musical or the Space School Musical on

12/5. On December 19th @ 6:00pm is the BBCPS Winter Concert.

- **Specialists Presentation**

- **Miyolene St. Germain (Art Teacher)**

The Art show is scheduled for June 2, 2020. In kindergarten students engage in projects that help develop their fine and gross motor skills. In Grade 1 students were introduced to the work of Paul Klee. In Grade 2 Art classes were crafted around students' study of animals and their habitats. In Grade 3 students were introduced to the work of Georgia O'Keefe, Classes were engaged in creating large oil pastel paintings of plants. In Grade 4 students were introduced to the work of Picasso. In Grade 5 classes were introduced to papier mache as a material/ technique to create their own planets. In Sixth Grade students learned about Greek and Roman architecture.

- **Jen Gordon (Librarian)**

The largest part of the program is literature appreciation, genre, author, and character studies, lots of read alouds, experiencing the joy of a good book as a group. Our Makerspace is a place where students have a chance to think, design, and create with different materials. Besides being the librarian at the school Ms. Gordon is part of the Adventure Club and sharing outdoor activities with grades 5 & 6.

- **Catherine Marino (Music Teacher)**

Ms. Marino's three goals when leaving Banneker is for students to be tuneful, beatful, and artful. In grades K-2 when they come to music, they sing their name. She teaches the students to sing and tells them at "Banneker" we sing. There are only four students that refuse to sing in the school and she is proud of that.

- **Sean Best (Physical Education Teacher)**

In grades K-2 they participate in activities that emphasize basic locomotor movements along with fine motor and gross motor development. Students in 3-6 participate in more sport-based skill development activities. Some of the sports are non-traditional and emphasize cooperation and teamwork in the frameworks and goals.

- **Anesta Hicks (Technology Teacher)**

Students are taught the basics in the area of computers, computer safety, graphics, research, creating, editing, and saving files, Students have email accounts through Google education, but grades 3-6 use them under teacher supervision. Technology is an important vibrant thread that is continually used to support students' achievement and success.

*Josiane Julmeus motioned to adjourn the meeting, Janel Granum seconded the motion, all approved.*

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

