

BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Held Remotely on Google Meet
November 19, 2020

Meeting is being held remotely due to the Coronavirus Epidemic

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

Sherley Bretous (Executive Director, ex-officio), Deborah Del Dotto, Shane Buker, Lin Tucker, Jenepher Gooding, Janel Granum, and Josianne Julmeus.

Visitors: N/A

Absent: Tirsit Habetariam

Public Comment: N/A

LinTucker motioned to approve the minutes for September, Shane Buker seconded the motion, all approved.

Shane Buker mentioned to approve the minutes for October, Janel Granum seconded the motion, all approved.

Board Business:

● **Financials**

There was a question on the budget about Professional Development. The school had budgeted about \$164,000 but we haven't used a lot of the money. The staff has a stay late Tuesday where they do professional learning communities (PLC) about culturally responsive instruction. With the hybrid/remote model there isn't any a lot of extra time for PD. Teachers have opted to take courses in remote learning and how to keep students engaged. The staff are reading the same books about being culturally aware of equity in education and how to fight against systemic racism.

Not many financial changes from last month. The only staffing change is for a new nurse.

There are several grants that were applied for, and they are coming in slowly but surely. Most of them are around improving the school building because of Covid and social distancing. The school will get back 65% of the money back from the grants.

One of the advantages of having done our grants during the summer is that we got first choice on a lot of the supplies we needed. The school won't run out of gloves, masks or toilet paper because we have it stockpiled.

There was a follow up call with DESE about the audit findings. The call went well and Ms. Bretous gave a presentation that answered a lot of their questions. DESE followed up with an email that was received today asking for more documentation which Ms. Bretous will supply. The school is in this position because of the audit findings and enrollment.

Executive Director's Report:

● School Update

Things are going well at school. We were looking to make a policy to have more students come back into the school building at the end of the trimester, but the Covid numbers keep rising so we have opted not to bring more students in at this time unless there is a problem learning or their zoom is not working. Now the school has Hybrid A week and Hybrid B week. There are about 15 students that come to school both weeks.

DESE is requiring that all students get a flu shot. There is a question about how to mandate this if students are remote. It is hard for the teachers to keep the students focused when they are remote learning. Sometimes when they break for lunch they don't return to class afterwards and sometimes they don't go to their specialists class. So now the school is meeting with the parents via zoom to correct this and it will be noted on the students report card.

Some of the Authorization Forms haven't been turned into the school so the teachers have been reaching out to the parents to get them completed. Once the parents have turned in Authorization Forms the Board will be able to visit some of the classrooms via zoom.

The Holiday Program has been cancelled for this year because of Covid. There are more students in DCF care this year so for those students we are going to do some things eternally. If the Board would like to donate to these families please designate the holiday program on the check.

The school met with DESE about the audit findings, about the trip to Guatemala and related party transactions. The other piece was about the school's enrollment. They passed a law in 2016 that you must have at least 80% Cambridge students. The school can't meet these enrollment requirements because there are not enough seats in Cambridge to meet that. Students that come into our school in K1 are mostly Cambridge, but what happens is by the time they get to 6th grade they have moved to another city. The school is working with DESE to become exempt from this law, and this will go before the Commissioner of Education in January.

Cambridge Public Schools staff was getting free COVID testing. They were excluding Banneker, PHA, and CCSC weren't included in the free testing. The Banneker, PHA, and CCSC then wrote the Superintendent of CPS a letter requesting that Cambridge Charter schools be included in the free testing because we are servicing Cambridge students, and he agreed.

The school has hired Aronson, Alexander and Finning accountants to help transition Central Source out of the business office. The school has worked with them before and they will be able to mentor the new business manager.

The Board has hired Educational Board Partners and hopefully they can help the Board meet their goals and update and approve Board By-Laws.

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

| Meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.