

February 9, 2006

TO: The Board of Trustees

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS)

As concerned parents of students at the BFCCPS, and as consistent supporters of the founding mission of the School, we wish to express our concerns regarding the present state of faculty relations and the lack of adequate channels for conveying the faculty's issues.

We believe in the mission of the BFCCPS, and its challenge to parents as the primary educator of children. The link that exists between education occurring within our families and the classroom instruction within the walls of the school is essential to the continued development of our children. We have embraced the high expectations that the BFCCPS places on parents, and likewise have come to expect that the faculty and staff of the school live up to the highest professional standards. In our experiences with the faculty, we have often seen the highest levels of dedication to the school's mission, and the most creative methods of pedagogy taking place on a daily basis. This we believe is why charter schools exist, and the BFCCPS has been fortunate to retain some of the most excellent educators to be found in any public or private school.

It is alarming to us then, that we have seen instances where the most valid concerns of our faculty are not being heard by the school's administration nor by you, its Trustees. A climate of collegial inclusion in all decisions affecting working conditions, educational strategy, and interactions with families to name a few, is essential to the well-being of a school's faculty and the long term viability of the institution itself.

Our grave concern as members of the school community is that working conditions for staff at the BFCCPS have deteriorated to such an extent that the school will be challenged to continue on its path to excellence in academics and building sound character. Likewise our commitment to the school as parents, and our consistent financial support of its mission will be hard to maintain if these matters are not remedied. The faculty must be heard, and as trustees of a school that espouses virtue as its cornerstone, you must do the right thing and hear them!

We respectfully request that the Trustees embrace their role as guardians of the mission, and meet with the BFCCPS faculty within two weeks of the date of this letter. We also request that the Trustees work expeditiously to reconstitute the standing board sub-committees. These committees have for many years served as excellent channels for parental and faculty involvement in mission critical matters and can be a vital source of two-way communication with the Trustees about character education, community service, academics, and the support for parents that is a hallmark of our school. As it relates to the concerns expressed in this letter, we believe that a well functioning Human Resource sub-committee is essential and should be re-established so that an effective employee/employer relationship can be facilitated.

We expect that you will give this request serious consideration for the continued viability of our school.

Sincerely,

Concerned Parents of BFCCPS

Caroline and David Agresti
Tim and Julie Casey
Mindy and Jerry Cimmino
Cindy and Dan Conatser
Lisa and Kevin Cronin
Bill and Donna Durkin
Brian and Mary-Claire Flaherty
Matthew and Katherine Ginnetty
Sten and Tammy Herlitz
Joe and Kelley Kennedy
Chris and Cindi Mitchell
Susan and Thomas Murphy
Mary Peterson
Mike and Kim Pradko
Pete and Terri Ross
Christopher and Diane Williams
Ralph and Kristen Young