

Mission Committee Description

Background:

The Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School is a Massachusetts public school operating under the general laws of Massachusetts (Chapter 71§89). Students in charter schools are bound to meet the same performance standards, testing and portfolio requirements set by the board of education for students in other public schools. In granting the school a charter to function, the Board of Education permits the school to follow a documented mission, purpose, innovation or specialized focus in meeting its responsibilities as a public school.

The mission of the school is to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children by providing the children with a classical academic education coupled with sound character development and community service. The mission is summarized in the BFCCPS four pillars

- 1) Parents as primary educators
- 2) Academic program is based on the Core Knowledge Sequence, Content Guidelines for Grades K-8 as published by E.D. Hirsch, 1998.
- 3) Promotion of character education by encouraging students to identify and integrate virtue as part of their essential education. The virtues of prudence, fortitude, temperance and justice are emphasized by parents and teachers in the curriculum.
- 4) Students are encouraged to participate in community service.

As described in the charter school status and regulations, the board of trustees determines the school's curriculum (*Chapter 71§89*) and policies. It carries out this task in consultation with the school leaders and teachers.

The daily operations of the school, details of implementation of the curriculum and program details that assure meeting state educational requirements are the responsibility of the Head of School, School Leaders and Teachers.

Under Massachusetts Law, the members of Board of Trustees are considered public employees. In carrying out the responsibilities assigned to them they are obliged to meet their duties of care and loyalty and to comply with open meeting laws. Committees and task forces acting to advise the board must act in a way that does not compromise the Board's position on these requirements.

In recognition of the school's mission to assist parents in their role as primary educators, BFCCPS values dialog with parents on curriculum and mission. The Board utilizes the mission committee as one of its primary means of carrying out those discussions.

Purpose of the Mission Committee

The mission committee assists the Board of Trustees in meeting its responsibilities to the school's curriculum and pursuit of its mission through information gathering and recommendation of new programs.

As a board level committee its purview does not include the day-to-day operations of the school. However, the HOS may at his/her discretion request assistance from the committee for particular issues as they arise.

Composition of the Mission Committee

The committee is composed of the Chairperson, who must be a member of the board of trustees, the Head of School, who is a permanent member, members of the community, and a subcommittee leader for each of the four pillars of the school's mission: Parents as Primary Educators, Academic, Character Education and Community Service. The subcommittee leaders are not required to be members of the Board of Trustees.

(This section will be made congruent board policy on committee formation and function after the policy is approved. The Governance committee is currently working on this policy.)

Formation of the Mission Committee and Task Groups

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Scheduling of Meetings and Reports to the Board

The Chairperson of the Mission committee shall schedule monthly meetings and special sessions of the committee. Meetings of the individual task groups shall occur as directed by the individual subcommittee leaders or the Chairperson of the Mission Committee.

All meetings of the Mission Committee and of the Task Groups of the Mission Committee shall take place on the grounds of the Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School. Public notice of the meetings shall be posted 48 hours in advance of the meeting in the Pink Sheets and on the BFCCPS web site. Meetings are open to the public.

The Chairperson of the Mission Committee shall file a report on the committee's activities and recommendations at each of the meetings of the Board of Trustees. If there is no new business to report, that shall be read into the record. As part of its report, the

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mission committee will include questions, suggestions and issues received from the community.

The Chairperson of the Mission Committee may designate one of the subcommittee leaders, a member of a subcommittee or the HOS schools to report on particular activities.

Communication Guidelines

Parents, teachers and students will from time to time have questions about curriculum, mission and implementation. Dependent upon the question, the most appropriate person to handle the issue may be a teacher, the Head of School, the chairperson of the mission committee or the board of trustees. The Head of School will be the first contact for new questions on curriculum and mission directed to the Mission Committee. Items that do not fall under the heading of day-to-day operations shall be passed onto the Chairperson of the Mission Committee to handle or assign to the Task Force leaders. This should assure efficient handling of these questions and minimize cross over of the Mission committee into data-to-day affairs.