

**Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
APPROVED Minutes  
Thursday, October 11, 2007 7:00pm  
BFCCPS Library**

Attendance: Trustees President John Neas, Vice President Lori Clements, Treasurer Anna dos Santos, Richard Frongillo, Jennifer Moccia, Michele Pearl, Cathy Tomaso; Tim Tracy, Poh-Lin Yeoh, HOS Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Asst. HOS Heather Zolnowski

Absent: Clerk Chuck Mayo, Faculty Representative Kevin Buckley, Cheryl O'Donnell

**Call to order, Introductions (7:00)**

**Recognition of the Month (7:03)**

Kevin recognizes the effort made by teachers who collectively focused on issue of MCAS. Individual test results are being mailed. A full report will be given next meeting. BFCCPS compared very favorably with Franklin district. The school responded well to a challenge.

**Attorney Presentations (7:10)**

The Board invited three attorney firms to make a presentation as the Board is considering engaging the services of one firm for the year. Each firm's representative spoke briefly and responded to questions from the Board. Presenters included Attorney Joan Stein of Stoneman, Chandler & Miller LLP, Elka Sachs of Krokidas & Bluestein LLP, and Attorney Edward F. Lenox and Mary-Ellen Sowyrda of Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane LLP

**Open Comment (7:52)**

None

**Comments from the Chair (7:52)**

John reported that he went to the statehouse on legislation day. The event was well attended; he distributed a handout of related information. He advised trustees that need keys to the school to see Kara Geraci. He noted that the asktheboard@bfccps.org has been updated to include the Clerk, Vice President, and President of the Board; issues will be distributed to appropriate trustees if needed. John handed out information related to the 2007 Charter School leader meeting upcoming. Some clarification was added for trustees to get to the online trustee web page.

**Action Register (7:43)**

Lori reviewed the Action Register. Regarding updates to the BFCCPS website, Cathy would like to see more consistency, perhaps through a template, of teacher information as there is a fair amount of outdated information in classroom space; Consensus was to leave Strategic Plan Reporting on the register until the Board makes decisions about planning. There is no state template for the Accountability Plan and this will continue to be tracked. Lori is looking for time-sensitive deadlines to be given by committee chairpersons to supplement the Board calendar. Regarding HOS goals, Anna would like to work from a top-down set of school goals from which the HOS goals come. Lori is looking for comments on HOS goals by 10/19.

**Attorney Presentations Continued (8:08)**

**Vote on Attorney Firm for School (8:41)**

John summarizes that we heard from three reputable firms. He notes that BFCCPS is likely to have some special issues going forward. Some note that having a history with the school is some advantage. Kevin notes procedure is that the HOS and Board Chair would have access to attorney. In general, all inquiries of the attorney would flow through these two individuals.

MOTION: By Lori/Anna to approve Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane LLP as Legal Counsel.

RESULT: Pass (Rich abstains)

### **Clerk's Report (9:15)**

The approval of minutes of August 9, September 6, and September 26 were tabled.

MOTION: By Lori/Cathy to approve minutes of 6/14 Executive Session.

RESULT: Pass

### **Treasurer's Report (9:18)**

Anna will be reviewing policies that have never been approved and those will be passed along to trustees in time. She observes that there is nothing out of the ordinary in the actuals through September.

Kevin notes that urgent issues have arisen in the area of special needs with twelve new IEP students plus particular child concerns. He had asked the Finance Committee for approval of one aide and one Special Needs teacher. He hopes the school can be responsive.

MOTION: By Anna/Lori to increase the personnel budget by a maximum amount of \$75,000 to fund a classroom aide and an additional SPED teacher.

RESULT: Pass

Anna is keeping an eye on the budget amount for grants (\$80K). Kevin suggests having Joe Chillo come to a Board meeting in the near future.

### **HOS report (9:29)**

Several notes:

- Kevin appreciates the support of the Finance Committee and Board responding to special needs circumstances.
- MCAS results and analysis will be forthcoming; Kevin states that some strategies to address shortcomings are already in place.
- Kevin applauds the school for its broad education. While many schools are cutting language, music, and arts, BFCCPS is educating the whole child. For example, 96% of fourth graders are in the band!
- The Faculty Input Team (FIT) has been terrific! Right now they are looking at discipline structures (e.g. recess) and collaboration (e.g. evaluation forms for teachers); teacher empowerment is a fact of life and Kevin is impressed with work so far.
- Character Education and Service Learning is being joined. This process is not easy; the school needs organized Character Education program focus; Former BFCCPS staff person Deb Farmer will be coming to visit to give consulting guidance.
- Nine staff members have signed up to attend Core Knowledge Conference coming up in the spring in Colorado Springs, CO. John observes that the BFCCPS Foundation will contribute up to \$10K for faculty to go to the conference

Kevin concludes that BFCCPS is a happy place to be with lots of good work going on.

### **Committee Report (9:40)**

Facilities: John reports that the BFCCPS Foundation was forming a formal offer to the CA Teachers for land. The Finance Committee will be approached to pay for legal fees to clarify land issue once and for all.

Faculty: No report.

Governance: Tim reports that a meeting will be held in October 18. No response for new members were garnered from pink sheet appeal.

Human Resources: Lori notes that meetings in November and December will be on first Monday (not Wednesday). Developing a subcommittee to work on salary grid which expires at the end of the current year.

Mission: No report.

Nominating: Preparing to convene to find a replacement for Maria Weiss.

Public Relations: Met and set short- and long-term goals. Worked on school brochure. Next meeting is on November 20 (third Tuesday) to discuss communication procedure; the group is looking for consistency of good stories on website.

Technology: No report.

John is wondering whether the Enrollment Task Force could meet on October 23. Also, John will schedule a second trustee meeting to discuss annual school goals for 2007-08. Heather has had initial meeting of Math Review Committee and set out a time line through March.

**Adjournment (10:42)**

MOTION: By Poh-Lin/Anna to adjourn

RESULT: Pass

Next meetings: 10/25/2007