

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School
Board of Trustees Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, May 15, 2008 7:30pm
BFCCPS Library

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

Absent: Faculty Representative Kevin Buckley, Chuck Mayo, Cheryl O'Donnell, Cathy Tomaso, Thom Viveiros, Poh-Lin Yeoh

Call to order (7:40)

Kevin notes the success of the band and chorus in Music in the Park. Kudos to Mr. Benjamin and Board his staff. John notes that the Annual Appeal has topped out at \$19K. He asks the Board for direction (over the summer) on how to use the money. He would like ideas regarding use for academic enrichment or program ideas. Tim is not in favor of allowing open use without specific use. Anna notes that next year's budget has monies from Annual Appeal allocated to specific line items (e.g. \$1500 to instruments). In response to Michele's question, it is stated that \$15K was the budgeted amount from Annual Appeal in 2009 Budget.

Action register (7:48)

Lori directs people to look at the calendar for changes in action items. John notes that the discussion of the Strategic Plan is on the agenda for June.

Committee Reports (7:50)

Enrollment: Nothing to report. Anna wonders whether there will be policy changes after last week's presentation. Michele notes that there was a typo in the presentation: should have said that the recommendation was for ONE lottery with possibility of second lottery, if desired. Adjustments were proposed for increasing slightly class sizes in grades 2-4. Anna wonders whether ESE policy relating to our stated March enrollment is, in fact, a number that cannot be exceeded.

Facilities: Skipped, initially.

Faculty Representative: Kevin B. reports that Gail Trotin will be Faculty Representative next year. The Board will vote on this in June.

Governance: Nothing to report.

Human Resources: Lori notes that the committee is wrapping up for the year. Gail Trotin has done a great job. Evaluations of HOS are still needed from Trustees. The Salary Grid subcommittee needs a vote to be dissolved; this will be done in June.

Mission: Meeting was held and they reviewed the report from Joe Perna on the related Faculty Input Team for Character Education. A draft of resource guide for character education and service learning is being developed. Portions of the Strategic Plan will be updated for the June meeting. Deb Farmer Kris will be coming back to BFCCPS in the fall.

Nominating: Peter O'Donnell will be withdrawing his candidacy leaving four candidates. Lori suggests a by-law review of the circumstances. John solicits interest for Board leadership positions.

Public Relations: No update. Lori suggests Character in Community Award be given by the Board. Nominations could be gleaned by teachers, students, or school community members to recognize an individual outside of the school community. The recognition would be for virtues in action, once or twice a year.

Dress Code (8:19)

Discussion continued in follow-up to last week's Trustee meeting. Parent Vanessa Blinco notes that a rumor is circulating that a uniform is being considered and she expressed her concern about that. Jill Mongeau notes that Foxboro has uniformity and success with it. Others contribute comments: Sandy Frongillo, Lisa Lockhart, Anne Gilberti.

The question of forming a subcommittee is raised. John does not want to rush this issue. Many believe that the issue needs to be addressed quickly to allow families to adjust over the summer.

MOTION: By Jennifer/Rich to form a Board Task Force to review the current dress code policy and make recommendations to be presented at the 6/11 Board meeting

RESULT: Fail (4-4, Tim, John, Lori, Kevin B. against)

There is concern that the date cannot be met and the Board should not rush and make a bad decision.

MOTION: By Jennifer/Lori to form a Board Task Force to review current dress code policy and make recommendations.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

John appoints Jennifer and Michele as co-chairs and suggests other members including: Jennifer, Michele, Cathy, Thom, Anna, Lori, Anne Anher, Anne Gilberti, Diana Stavely, Carolyn Fernandes, Vanessa Blinco, Joanne Schafer who have expressed interest.

MOTION: By Jennifer/Anna to for a committee with these twelve members plus any additional faculty representatives that may wish to join.

RESULT: Pass (7-1, Lori against)

John directs the committee to bring recommendations to the Board by June. Other trustees are encouraged to attend Dress Code meetings, if interested, to expedite discussion at June meeting. Michele offers her gratitude to Kevin for his direction this year regarding the dress code.

Committee Reports (9:17)

Facilities: Lori thinks we should move forward without Washington Street which seems not to be happening. Michele recommends going forward with civil action (as discussed on 5/8) plus (a) meet with the Church, and (b) engage a commercial realtor about other space/land opportunities. John would like to run a newspaper advertisement announcing our pursuit of other options.

MOTION: By John/Michele to (a) support the BFCCPS Foundation in its pursuit of a civil action related to the Washington Street property, (b) begin negotiations with the Church for lease of current building, (c) engage a commercial realtor, and (d) produce and distribute a newspaper advertisement seeking alternatives for a new school site.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Adjournment (9:31)

MOTION: By Lori/Jennifer to adjourn.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)