

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS)
Board of Trustees Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, November 17, 2011 7:00 pm

Attendance: President: Lori Clements, Treasurer: Jerry Cimmino, Clerk: Don Tappin, Mary Barton-Rau, Lax Iyer, Santhi Marusamy, Poh-Lin Yeoh (7:05pm), Head of School Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Assistant Head of School Heather Zolnowski and Director of School Operations and Student Activities Joe Perna

Absent: Vice President: Anna dos Santos, Ed Callahan, Tom Viveiros

Call to Order (7:04pm):

Lori welcomes all and thanks Mary for refreshments. Charter School Leadership summit has been discontinued as of Sept of this year so no more workshops to attend. Lori reminds members that info to be included in packet needs to be to her by the Thursday before the meeting. On Dec. 1st @ 9:15am-10am individual from state visiting BFCCPS and would like to meet as many BOT members as possible. Enrollment night coming up, Lori asks Dr. O'Malley if he would like a Trustee to speak.

Lori attended Character Education Partnership conference where BFCCPS was presented with a National School of Character award. Lori also able to attend Core Knowledge conference. Lori recently received a letter from parent about a matter of concern and the parent asked that it be considered a formal complaint. Lori will be following up on it.

Recognition of the Month (7:12pm):

Dr. O'Malley recognizes the BFCCPS Student Council this month and talks about the process of the students getting on the council. Mr. Velky and Mr. Callahan working with the student council. Luke Haigh (Pres.) speaks about things that the council is considering for the 2011-2012 year such as Ben Franklin Day, water coolers for all of the school (not just 8th grade). Samantha Moccia (VP) speaks about some of the things she feels the student council should be working on. Keely Dion (Secretary), takes note every single meeting, and hopes process of posting to be smoother moving forward. Miles Boornazian (Representative At Large) says wants to get kids excited to be at this school.

Open Comment Period (7:27pm):

Jennifer Moccia: Wanted to address a concern and a trend she's seen having to do with an "uneven balance of power" within the Board of Trustees and the Committees it oversees. With so many committees headed by BOT members it gets hard to remain impartial when also representing those committees. Nothing in by-laws saying trustee shall or shall not hold chair positions. Says any committee conversation she's been witness to has been very biased, board has an obligation to listen to community. Board members chairing committees creates an atmosphere that doesn't lend itself to the airing of conflicting opinions. Reads part of our bylaws where President is supposed to preside over meetings. Thinks there is biased and un-natural lack of natural power and asks that people in their own committees have their say and allow people to speak their mind and make informed decisions'.

No other comments:

Clerk's Report (7:34pm):

Don reviews minutes from October Board of Trustees meeting. No changes requested.

Motion: Poh-Lin initiates and Jerry seconds a motion to approve minutes from October 13th BOT meeting.

Comments: none

Result: motion passes unanimously

HOS report (7:35pm):

Dr. O'Malley says that in all of his years in the education world nothing in his experience comes close to being issued a national award. Something we should be enormously proud of. Academics speak for themselves but much more difficult to recognized for something like character education. It is an award that was earned by the students, parents and teachers of this school. Thanks everyone for that particular award.

State visit coming up. Process of state visit changing with no written report being issued only verbal feedback.

Until now never seen an Oct. snow day. Held Diwali celebration week which went wonderfully. Following week BFCCPS held French week. Mentions that students moving into Franklin High School are required to take French 1. Because of the success of our French program BFCCPS students take French 2 honors when entering FHS.

New chorus teacher, will be working on school play, Mrs. Monty. Mentions the tremendous student talent we have at BFCPS. There are approx. 40 students participating in chorus this year. The school play will be "Honk". Rehearsal times will be cut back from last years activity. Same venue for the play as last year, Horace Mann, which is very expensive, made enough to break even but may come a time when revenue does not meet expenses.

A lot of work going on with the BFCCPS website. Building new more accessible website. Heather and Joe working on that.

Anna Ng is a grandmother, daughter had baby, Marcus, she is out for 10 days to help. Dr. O'Malley congratulates.

Heather speaks about the presentation they gave at the Character Education Partnership conference. Our presentation was on what BFCCPS does to create a successful character education program. We presented with another DC based k-3 school. Our 8th grade students are going to visit them on their DC trip.

Treasurer's Report (7:52pm):

Jerry reviews Sept. statement included in the BOT packet.

Action Register (7:55pm):

Lori reviews action register included in BOT packet.

Annual Appeal Update (7:59pm):

Mary and Poh-Lin review status of annual appeal. Approximately \$2000 has been received so far. Board reviews draft thank-you letter to be sent out to contributors. Multiple changes discussed which they will incorporate and present revised draft to Board

Governance Committee Update (8:15pm):

Lori says that as the Governance Committee Chair she would like to get direction from the Board regarding the direction the committee should be working on concerning a revised dress code. Mary asks for a definition of uniformity? Lengthy discussion about the merits or lack thereof of a looser or stricter dress code policy. Agreement that dress should not be obscene or provocative, distracting, etc. Mary asks about some of the strengths or weaknesses in the current dress code policy. Discussion about past events how things evolved.

Informal vote (show of hands) on if the present trustees want either to take the draft dress code presented to the board in June and loosen it allowing for greater flexibility or work from the existing dress code and tighten it. Majority voted for the loosening of the draft dress code presented in June.

Gov. Com. is going to look at policy and get revision to BOT.

Strategic Plan Review (8:50):

Lori reviews items in strategic plan document included in the BOT packet.

Facilities Update (9:02pm):

Don updates BOT on status of lease negotiation with Church.

Executive Session (9:04pm):

Lori stated the reasons for entering Executive Session are to consider the lease of real property and that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on our negotiating position, and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel. She also stated that the board WILL NOT reconvene in open meeting after the executive session.

Vote to move into Executive Session:

President: Lori Clements yes

Treasurer: Jerry Cimmino yes

Clerk: Don Tappin yes

Mary Barton-Rau yes

Lax Iyer yes

Santhi Marusamy yes

Poh-Lin Yeoh yes

