

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School
Board of Trustees Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, March 13, 2008 7:30pm
BFCCPS Library

Attendance: Trustees President John Neas, Vice President Lori Clements, Treasurer Anna dos Santos (7:40), Clerk Richard Frongillo, Faculty Representative Kevin Buckley, Cathy Tomaso, Tim Tracy, Thom Viveiros, Poh-Lin Yeoh; HOS Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Asst. HOS Heather Zolnowski
Absent: Chuck Mayo, Jennifer Moccia, Cheryl O'Donnell, Michele Pearl

Call to order, Comments by the Chair (7:34)

John notes that Jennifer is with her brother who is hospitalized in New Jersey, Michele is at work, and Chuck got called away.

John notes that Franklin Town Administrator Jeff Nutting, Fire Chief Gary McCarraher, and Police Officer Dan MacLean were among folks who read at BFCCPS during Read Across America Day. He states that a joint meeting with the Franklin School Committee is being planned. He highlights upcoming training opportunities offered through the MA Charter School Office. Destination Imagination (DI) schedule for 3/15 in Medfield was circulated. John notes that BFCCPS has a 2nd grader Danny Augermeir who has had accomplishments in chess, highlighted in local papers. John distributes a sign-up for t-shirt size for Trustees

John read a letter from Putnam Investments who has donated \$2500 to BFCCPS. Putnam employee Cathy presented the check to Karen Peterson and Jean Clark of the BFCCPS PCO.

Recognition of the Month (7:41)

Sixth-grade students Mikaela Alioto and Kendall Sarapas presented their story related to character education studies. The story was one of many that students produced and presented to students in other grades. The goal was to include a moral about character education virtues and then teach younger students. Kevin points out how special it is that kids teach younger kids.

Open Comment (7:49)

No comments offered.

Clerk's Report (7:50)

No minutes were ready for approval.

Treasurer's Report (7:50)

Anna distributes 3/5 FinComm minutes with highlighted issues and discussion items. She distributes letter to potential auditing candidate firms. Our auditor is being reconsidered as a matter of course every three years. Boilerplate questions are to be sent to financial firms.

Intermission (7:57)

The Aladdin cast surprised the Board with a "commercial", presenting a song from the production which is to be held on 3/14 and 3/15. Excellent!

Treasurer's Report Continued (8:01)

MOTION: By Anna/Lori to approve the letter of invitation to be sent to financial firms as soon as possible.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Anna is expecting that the Board will decide on a firm at the April Trustee meeting.

Action Register (8:02)

Lori reviewed the Action Register including Strategic Plan, board calendar, board goals, and HOS goals, Board elections (June), Salary Grid (March).

Selection of Two Board, Two Faculty/Staff & Two Parent to Nominating Committee (8:03)

Names of all were selected at random from a hat: Trustees Tim and Lori were selected by Jean Clark. John recommends that they serve as co-chairs or decide on a chairperson. Jane Augermeir selects Tina Hass and Deb Schwab (of four staff names). Tim selects Anne Gilberti and Carolyn Fernandes (of six parent names).

Head of School Report (7:59)

- Events and individuals highlighted

Kevin notes we have a musical! Aladdin! 62 kids involved in program! Talent and energy is amazing! All-school presentation to be made on 3/14 to other students. The production makes the school reverberate with happy news.

Destination Imagination (DI) is unusual in asking kids to do things to create and think. Six teams from BFCCPS! Kevin is donning shirt! Five teams in Franklin outside of BFCCPS. First BFCCPS presentation is at 9:40am in Medfield and goes all day on 3/15. Anna adds that Medfield is a huge DI presence and yet BFCCPS has more elementary teams than they! Cathy notes that other school's in Franklin are NOT funding it. Kevin notes parent volunteers.

On March 18 the entire 8th grade is going to Milton for premier French demonstration. BFCCPS is the only K-8 school being coupled with high schools. "Madame Malouf is best French teacher I have ever met," Kevin exclaims, "She is a light at the school!" She will be emcee!

Notable students: 8-year-old chess champion of state! Danny talks about chess matter of factly. Top violinist is also from BFCCPS. Great stuff!

- 3/10 Professional Development Day

Deb Farmer Cris came to talk about character education with teachers, and how to make things better. K-4 is driven by classrooms ("responsive classroom") with discussion; 5-8 uses system with "advisor" model (used at many private schools); small groups.

Other half of day was kicking off math program. Three professionals here to help; faculty is doing great work to take on latest teaching methods with technology. Cooperation has been terrific! Books are in and spectacular.

- Proposed 2008-09 School Calendar

Kevin presented a draft calendar that was approved by the faculty and reviewed it month-by-month to comment on thought behind the draft. General: concern for not spilling into 4th week of June; August: Kevin recommends paid workshop during week of 8/18 most are starting before Labor Day, 8/26 start; recommends long Labor Day weekend; Sept.: recommends Jewish Rosh Hashanah off; Oct.: Make 10/10 as Prof Dev creating long weekend with Yom Kippur; Nov.: school conferences on Monday before Veteran's Day, half day before Thanksgiving (instead of full day; Franklin has full day); Dec.: same as Franklin at holiday break; Jan.: trying to rotate days off for Prof Dev Day to help out with hitting "specials" Jun.: 6/16 is last day with no snow days.

Kevin looking for vote in April to approve calendar. Some discussion about Wednesday before Thanksgiving (full vs half day).

John asks whether a parent meeting will be held with Deb Farmer Kris. Kevin says yes but timetable has not been set. John asks Deb Schwab if letters to new families have gone out with a meeting date of 3/27. He is concerned with possible conflict with Franklin Superintendent Dr. Ogdan.

Kevin notes that the process of recruitment and enrollment is a complex problem with many issues. He applauds Deb for keeping it all in bounds.

Vote to Approve the Recommendations of the Salary Grid Subcommittee (8:45)

MOTION: By Lori/Anna to approve the recommendations of the Human Resources Committee's

Salary Grid Subcommittee stipulating salary increases for all employees of 10%, 7%, and 5% in the upcoming three years.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Lori thanks the Board and notes that this is a meaningful step for the staff. It is, of course, just the first step, however. John thanks Lori and all involved in the preparation of the salary proposal. He compliments the Board for its vision and wisdom (referencing work of Dr. Marcus, Dr. O'Malley, Organizational Task Force of 2007, Salary Grid Subcommittee). He is delighted to show the staff how important they are to us. We need to be diligent moving forward, too.

Vote to Approve the Language Changes to Policy No. 17 (HOS Review) (8:49)

The document highlighting the changes was distributed last month.

MOTION: By Lori/Tim to approve changes to Policy 17.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Committee Reports (8:52)

John notes progress on the Annual Appeal: \$18K to date (\$15K/80% for academics; \$3K/20% for new school); running through June; report will be prepared for school community; Ann Gilberti suggests sending a in late-April/May; letter being constructed for faculty/staff; will be approaching Foundation for list of previous donors

Elections: nothing to report

Enrollment: meeting on 3/19.

Facilities: Poh-Lin requests a summary of last meeting regarding this issue. John re-drafted a letter incorporating comments from other Trustees. Will send letter to Matt Ginnetty on 3/17.

Faculty Representative: Kevin B. notes that he expects positive response from the faculty regarding the salary increases. He was also very pleased with recent professional day.

Governance: No report.

Human Resources: Lori states that faculty retention issues will be reviewed in a more specific way going forward.

Mission: Kevin reports that a meeting was held and that a survey is being put together.

Nominating: Recruit, recruit, recruit! Trustee candidates are being sought.

Public Relations: Poh-Lin reports that a meeting was held. The group is trying to develop a website boilerplate for teachers to use for newsworthy items; looking at contacts in local papers; looking at calendar for other, upcoming newsworthy items; Deb is keeping news flow to Gazette and other papers; A Board meeting summary will be produced for the pink sheet. Anna wants to know how to publicize DI which is newsworthy. Kevin recommends Deb as focal point for publication. Rob Gilberti will be producing a report.

Strategic Plan: March 31 had most people who could attend so Trustees will meet to discuss.

Adjournment (9:22)

MOTION: By Lori/Kevin B. to adjourn.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)