

**Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School
Board of Trustees Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
Thursday, May 8, 2008 7:00pm
BFCCPS Library**

Attendance: Trustees President John Neas, Vice President Lori Clements, Treasurer Anna dos Santos (7:12), Clerk Richard Frongillo (8:05), Faculty Representative Kevin Buckley, Chuck Mayo (7:05), Jennifer Moccia, Cheryl O'Donnell (8:32), Michele Pearl (7:04), Cathy Tomaso (7:06), Tim Tracy, Thom Viveiros, Poh-Lin Yeoh; HOS Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Asst. HOS Heather Zolnowski

Call to order (7:01)

John recognizes that some Trustees will be late. He will delay his comments until more are present.

Recognition of the Month (7:03)

On April 12, BFCCPS was involved in Rube-Goldberg competition. Students involved in the competition were present: Jacob Tomaso, Chase Buckholz, Ryan Cronin, Zach Sarapas, Josh McNeil. They described the rules and the project called "Bubble Bedlam" each of 24 schools given same materials. BFCCPS received awards for teamwork, presentation, and sportsmanship; placed fifth. Kevin recognizes impressive awards and recognition showing character in action.

Open Comment (7:12)

None.

Clerk's Report (7:13)

MOTION: By Tim/Michele to approve minutes of 4/10 Board of Trustees meeting.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Treasurer's Report (7:48)

Anna discusses current year budget, noting a balance of \$126K. Depreciation is not yet included.

Fiscal Year 2009: Anna presents budget which includes anticipated increased revenues. She noted some differences including stipends for summer workshops. Information about changes will be relayed to staff from Human Resources and Dr. O'Malley. Kevin B. stresses need for immediacy of information. Michele express concern of risk with only a projected surplus of \$10K in 2009; reserves reduces risk. Chuck asks about English/Language/Arts program show up in budget. He observes it is harder to see where expenses related to school pillars are as expenses are so intertwined. Cathy asks about changes regarding chapter 403b program; Kara notes that it is now 100% employee-funded. John feels that risk is really whether enrollment will be 400. Kevin notes that the budget moves made this year have been bold and courageous showing foresight. Jennifer notes increase in instrumental music budget which is related to targeted funds form Annual Appeal. She notes that the drama budget is flat with no adjustment to relieve the cost of tickets. It is noted that the ticket price can be reduced with no need to increase budget.

MOTION: By Anna/Lori to approve fiscal 2009 budget as presented.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Comments by the Chair (7:45)

John highlights the historic meeting between the BFCCPS Trustees and the Town of Franklin School Board. Cooperation has improved. BFCCPS is now listed on town website. Cindy Sarapas had been pursuing a hot lunch program but no solution was discovered that met all needs. John notes that a grant-writing notice will be in pink sheet for PCO and Board. The PCO is interested in running an auction in 2008-09. The Board has no issues with this effort. John states that the June Trustee meeting will be on June 11 (instead of the 12th) to avoid a conflict with the 8th grade graduation program.

Head of School Report (7:48)

Kevin recognizes the wonderful efforts involved in Teacher Appreciation Week.

- **Staff Changes**

School Psychologist Edie Whitney is retiring. BFCCPS will look to collaborate with other Franklin public schools to meet our need. Ronnie Cacciola (Special Education) has been with the school since its inception and will be retiring. Mr. Lee and Ms. Gebhardt are moving out of state to pursue opportunities. Rebecca Harrington was hired as a guidance counselor (fifty applications received). Interviews for 5th and 6th grade instructors are proceeding with many applications received. Beth Sharistianian will be moving to teach 7th and 8th grade.

- **School Happenings Highlighted**

Two information nights focused on the new math program were held with many new parents present. Music award of “100 Best” is noted for second year in a row. Overnight trips went very well with tremendous involvement by parents and teachers. Concert Band is on May 28. MCAS testing next week.

Candidates for the Board of Trustees (8:08)

The Board invited four (of five, Peter O'Donnell unable to attend) candidates to answer questions of the Board, one at time. Current Trustees John Neas and Richard Frongillo were invited to go first so that they could be present to hear the presentation of the others, Lisa Buchholz and Nav Chander. Each candidate answered questions posed by the Trustees.

Review of the Dress Code (8:34)

The Trustees discussed this topic at length with all having an opportunity to express his/her initial view on the topic of dress code. Kevin had surveyed the community and he provided more than twenty responses to date including parents, staff, and student council. He expressed that the current code was a stop-gap for a complex issue. Most trustees seemed to be in favor of more clarity, more uniformity, and more enforceability/accountability while avoiding an undue burden on families and children. Some observed that uniformity could be achieved without uniforms and allowing individuality to be expressed by students within defined bounds. Some observed that uniformity enhances school identity which would be beneficial. Kevin B. spoke strongly against the idea of uniforms believing that it would send the wrong message (that they are not trusted) to the students and lead to conflict. Parents in attendance, Joanne Schafer, Lisa Buchholz, Nav Chander, Carolyn Fernandes, Anne Gilberti, and Vanessa Jolie all contributed to the discussion. The cost of uniformity was raised with some feeling that it would be costly to families and others saying it would be less expensive. In the end, the discussion was tabled to allow the Board to gather more information. More discussion will be had on 5/15 Trustee meeting.

Presentation by the Enrollment Task Force (9:22)

Michele presented slides with the results of the task force which was focused on understanding how to best recruit and retain students, providing recommendations to the Board, and spreading the word of the unique elements of BFCCPS. The task force recommended maintaining the current admissions policy and some slight adjustments in grades 2-4 (adding a student per grade).

Anna notes that pre-enrollment numbers (March) limit total enrollment according to charter school regulations. Enrollment policies are being revised by ESE (e.g. DOE).

MOTION: By Lori/Anna to suspend rules to allow meeting to proceed past 10pm.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

MOTION: By Rich/Tim to accept the report of the Enrollment Task Force with the thanks of the Board.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Governance Review of Board Policies (10:13)

MOTION: By Tim/Michele to repeal Policy #12 on Bill Payment.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

MOTION: By Tim/Lori to repeal Policy #5 on School Programs

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

MOTION: By Tim/Anna to approve edits to Policy #18 Use of Alcohol & Tobacco removing requirement for approval of Board.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Facilities Discussion (10:17)

John notes that no response was ever received from the California Retirement group; it appears the offer to purchase was rejected, but it is not clear. We need to move on as if rejected.

BFCCPS Foundation member Matt Ginnetty met with Anna, John, and attorneys about rights to cross/re-cross strip of land. The rights issue remains unresolved. Attorneys proposed that they do additional title work (2-3 months) which will, hopefully, bring the owner to the table for more serious discussion. Rich wonders how much the additional work legal would cost. Thom wonders whether all has been done to get owner to table already. Consensus is yes. Lori believes estimate of time is underestimated.

John lists members of a negotiation team for discussions with the Church: John, Lori, Anna, Kevin, Matt. Others could join. John read a letter from Father Callahan from months ago rejecting the school's offer to purchase the current school building.

Adjournment (10:30)

MOTION: By Cathy/Tim. to adjourn.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)