

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School
Board of Trustees Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
Monday, June 16, 2008 7:30pm
BFCCPS Library

Attendance: Trustees President John Neas, Vice President Lori Clements, Treasurer Anna dos Santos, Clerk Richard Frongillo, Faculty Representative Kevin Buckley, Chuck Mayo (7:45), Jennifer Moccia, Tim Tracy; HOS Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Asst. HOS Heather Zolnowski

Absent: Michele Pearl, Cheryl O'Donnell, Cathy Tomaso, Thom Viveiros, Poh-Lin Yeoh

Call to order, Comments by the Chair (7:37)

John states that last week's graduation festivities were delightful. He presents a plaque to Jennifer in recognition of her service on the Board.

New BFCCPS Staff Introduced (7:38)

Kevin introduces the newly-hired school psychologist, Kristin Corcoran, a Franklin resident. He notes that all of the end-of-year events were great and is happy to be ending the year on a high note. Later, Kevin introduces Lisa Weedan, a kid-friendly K-4 inclusion teacher.

Clerk's Report (7:53)

MOTION: By Rich/Anna to approve minutes of the 5/8 Board meeting

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

MOTION: By Rich/Tim to approve minutes of the 5/15 Board meeting

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Action Register (7:40)

Lori reviewed the open issues: Strategic Plan to be discussed tonight; Anna provided feedback about Board Calendar and a new version was distributed; Board goals will be address in the summer; John encourages Trustees to be thinking ahead about goals.

Committee Reports (7:42)

John suggests covering things not covered in last week's meeting

Faculty Representative: Kevin B. thanks the Board for its support and gift. He intends to re-focus on curriculum in coming months to get it locked down, and he'll be attending graduate school.

Human Resources: Lori thanks Kevin B. who served as the third floor faculty representative; his assistance with HR issues is much appreciated.

MOTION: By Anna/Jennifer to dissolve the Enrollment Task Force with gratitude for having completed its work

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Lori acknowledges the help of Tim in the background.

Public Relations: Jennifer notes that the group is wrapping up its final task of establishing an internal communication program with the hopes of rolling it out next year for faculty to streamline media requests. The committee is also putting final touches on boilerplate school information (a few sentences) with the intent to have it included in packages coming from the school. Lisa expresses her interest in joining the PR committee; this will be handled at July meeting.

Jennifer will continue in the summer to make sure that brochures are at real estate offices. She recommends rotation of individuals at Chamber of Commerce events. Deb Schwab is going on 6/17 but there are other events upcoming in July.

Governance: Tim thanks Anna, Lori, Rich, John, and Heather. The group reviewed 15 of 29 poli-

cies to exceed the goal of reviewing 50%.

Mission: Nothing to report.

Facilities: John states that he has had discussions with Foundation President Matt Ginnetty about status of Washington Street land: the title had not been delivered to Roche and Murphy which has delayed the civil issue filing. John describes an attractive piece of land on Pond Street which he has walked with Matt. He suggest that perhaps a meeting of Trustees and Foundation can take place before the July Board Retreat

Discussion on Strategic Plan (8:10)

Anna points out that the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (ESE) is interested in seeing a 5 (not a 3) year plan. She adapted the existing document as a starting point to extend to 5 years. Lisa notes that we must be mindful of what measures of success we will use; she hopes for something more quantifiable. John observes that we would be looking to approve the Strategic Plan by September to have it included in the charter renewal application.

Anna wonders whether we need an action item for each goal. Kevin thinks not: ESE needs to know that there IS a plan to make a plan; he feels that the plan is a working document that gives evidence that a process is in place. Heather suggests having action steps for those items being worked on in year one.

The group reviewed all five goals and the targeted years for working on each goal. Anna recorded suggests, will make updates, and will distribute a new version electronically.

MOTION: By Anna/Lori to accept current version of 5-year Strategic Plan as a working document.
RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Discussion of Dress Code (9:09)

John notes he has received two e-mails (forwarded to the Board prior to the meeting) regarding the dress code changes. The administration has not received any notes. Discussion was opened on the topic.

Vanessa Jolie was hoping for a policy in “black and white”. As it is, the dress code is subjective and she is unclear on the purpose of the current dress code. Doris Reynolds is happy with tightening of the code and observes that it is impossible to please everyone. John states that the Board needs a unified front based on its decisions. Lori highlights that the task force had an objective and they pursued it with many opportunities for input and participation. She feels the decision was made and that we need to move forward with it.

Chuck points to violations of the dress code around the table at the Board meeting as an illustration of difficult it will be to enforce. He also takes issue with the voting process which did not allow new Board members to vote on this important topic (the vote happened prior to their receipt of voting privilege).

Anna feels it would have been nice to have a revision opportunity to “dress up” the written code but some felt that there needed to be movement in the interest of time. She addresses the questions of “wind pants” and “jeans” being categorically prohibited by stating that it is difficult to define what version would be acceptable. She also noted that discussion on the task force would have the policy reviewed earlier next year.

Jennifer points out that getting input from the community does not suggest that the process was a democratic vote. She observes that not all on the task force agreed with all of the points but that compromise was understood. Now, it is time to stand behind the policy. Kevin B. feels we should give the policy a try.

Tim is not sure what role the Governance Committee has; Lori expects the committee to put the code in policy form. John reiterates that the current language needs to be extended to allow exceptions and to deal with enforcement. Tim is not sure enforcement procedure rests with the Governance Committee.

MOTION: By Lori/Kevin B. to give temporary authority to the Head of School to enforce the Dress Code as he deems appropriate until such time as the Board alters that authority.

RESULT: Pass (6-2, Tim, John against)

Nav Chander expresses surprise that the dress code was published without an enforcement strategy. He believes that often the dissemination of information is as important as the information itself. Jennifer notes that enforcement was discussed by the task force and offered to assist in the communication procedures. Anna believes that a communique needs to be sent to families to direct them to the website rather than relying on people to go to the website on their own. Kevin disagrees stating that the website is vital in the communication process.

In the end, John expresses his opinion that the Board has made a poor decision related to the Dress Code. He asks Kevin whether the Board has put the HOS in a difficult position related to the Dress Code to which Kevin replied, "yes."

Adjournment (9:35)

MOTION: By Lori/Anna to adjourn.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)