

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School
Board of Trustees Meeting
APPROVED Minutes
Wednesday, November 10, 2010 7:00pm
School Library

Attendance: Trustees President Lori Clements, Vice President Anna dos Santos (7:21), Treasurer Jerry Cimmino, Nav Chander (7:21), Richard Frongillo, Lax Iyer, Stephan Katinas (7:35), Don Tappin (7:41), Faculty Representative Ed Callahn, Poh-Lin Yeoh; HOS Dr. Kevin O'Malley (8:19), Asst. HOS Heather Zolnowski, Director of School Operations and Student Activities Joe Perna

Absent: Clerk Thom Viveiros.

Call to order, Comments by the Chair (7:05)

Lori requests CORI paperwork from trustees. She notes that Jerry, Anna, and Lori are going to charter school leadership conference later in November.

Recognition of the Month (7:06)

The Student Council (SC) is recognized for their work. Dr. O'Malley introduces Faculty Mentors Ed Callahan and Matt Velky who are "helping to keep it vibrant and active." They introduce SC President Amy Reynolds, Vice President Reed Buchholz, and Student Rep at Large Brittany Ford. Secretary McKenna Hollosy is absent. More than 20 students expressed interest in joining the SC and gave a speech in front of several classes. Amy spoke of her goal to interact more with students and SC will start making morning announcements on 11/15. Reed hopes to fill a "communication gap" bringing more ideas forward. Brittany wants to make sure all ideas are heard. Poh-Lin is happy for "outreach" as a focus rather than fundraising. Lori shares her being impressed by the student speakers.

Open Comment (7:20)

Several comments were offered. Lauran Kearney acknowledges that there are good things happening at the school but has strong things to say. She expresses unhappiness with a book choice in 5th grade that was not listed in the Scope & Sequence. She reads from a letter to Dr. O'Malley regarding what she sees as "interfering" with communication between a parent and a teacher. She feels that the HOS operates contrary to the intent of the founding families, and asks whether the Board understands the mission of the school.

James Lyons, parent of a first grader, observes that Mrs. Lyons was also told by the HOS that all questions regarding curriculum should come through administration and not directly to the teacher. He has three concerns: the communication process is inconsistent; he recalls a courtyard assembly of students in the spring which was interrupted by administration and wonders whether this incident will be reviewed;; he does not see an element of the accountability plan that keeps tabs on whether the school is remaining "classical."

Mary and Dave Brennan each express concern with the HOS feedback that limits interaction of parents with teachers which can turn "molehills into mountains."

Vote on Governance Committee Charter (7:42)

MOTION: By Anna/Ed to approve charter of Governance Committee.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Head of School Report (7:45)

The school is in the midst of French Week! The school play has been announced: Willy Wonka. Kevin, Heather, and Joe combine to highlight several items. Kevin discusses enrollment statistics indicating populations from where BFCCPS draws students (e.g. race). He notes differences between BFCCPS and Franklin including a relatively low number of "free and reduced lunch" students. Current enrollment is at 442, one above budget with a student returning after the school

year started. Steps taken by the school to comply with the state's mandate related to bullying is presented and discussed.

Strategic Plan (8:05)

Anna leads the group in reviewing the areas of the Strategic Plan with deliverables in 2010-11. Several minor adjustments are noted and will be incorporated into the next revision.

Treasurer's Report (8:20)

Jerry reviews the monthly income statement that had been distributed and highlights the current financial position. Expenses are being controlled well, including the conversion of several employees to OBRA which will save some money going forward. Being above the planned number of students (by 1) helps the income side. In order to get OBRA off the ground, Jerry makes a motion.

MOTION: By Jerry/Ed to approve the Joinder Agreement for State Employees' Deferred Compensation Plan.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Clerk's Report (8:30)

MOTION: By Nav/Stephan to approve minutes of September 11, 2010 Board Retreat.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

MOTION: By Anna/Ed to approve minutes of September 16, 2010 Board Meeting.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

MOTION: By Poh-Lin/Don to approve minutes of October 14, 2010 Board Meeting.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Lori states that Thom will be unable to continue as Clerk due to other obligations and has resigned that position.

MOTION: By Lori/Anna to approve the appointment of Don Tappin as Clerk.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Annual Appeal (8:40)

Poh-Lin had edited the previous version of the Annual Appeal letter to incorporate comments offered by the Board in the last meeting. Several positive comments are offered as feedback to the new version which includes specific language of how the money is to be used.

Discussion of BFCCPS Foundation Request (8:45)

Lori had distributed a copy of an e-mail from BFCCPS Foundation President Matt Ginnetty regarding the Washington Street property. The letter notes some ongoing discussion by CBRE and Calpers, and requests that the Board relax its deadline of November 30 that had been set in previous months. That deadline was set to have the Foundation proceed down legal avenues if no movement was detected. Matt notes an upcoming meeting between CBRE and Calpers on 12/9-12/10 at which all holdings will be reviewed by CBRE. There is much discussion and review of the land situation.

MOTION: By Rich/Ed to extend the deadline of the Foundation with the expectation that legal proceedings will commence if no definitive action is taken by Calpers at its meeting.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous)

Action Register (9:05)

Anna presents and discusses progress against the Board Action Register.

Entering Executive Session and Adjournment (9:10)

Lori states that the Board will need to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the lease of real property and that holding such discussions in open session may have a detrimental effect on the Board's negotiating position. She noted that the Board would not reconvene in

open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. A roll call vote to enter Executive Session is required.

MOTION: By Tim/Nav to begin Executive Session.

RESULT: Pass (unanimous) Votes included: Lori Clements (yes), Anna dos Santos (yes), Jerry Cimmino (yes), Nav Chander (yes), Richard Frongillo (yes), Lax Iyer (yes), Stephan Katinas (yes), Don Tappin (yes), Ed Callahan (yes), Poh-Lin Yeoh (yes)