

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS)
Board of Trustees Meeting
Approved Minutes
Thursday, January 12th, 2012 7:00pm

Attendance: President: Lori Clements, Vice President: Anna dos Santos, Ed Callahan, Tom Viveiros Treasurer: Jerry Cimmino, Clerk: Don Tappin, Mary Barton-Rau, Lax Iyer, Santhi Marusamy, Poh-Lin Yeoh, Head of School Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Assistant Head of School Heather Zolnowski and Director of School Operations and Student Activities Joe Perna

Absent:

Call to Order (7:03pm):

Lori welcomes all and wishes everyone Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year. Points out some docs that have been passed out to trustees, financial disclosure, accountability plan that has been approved by state and the Head of School report. Lori speaks about need for officer candidates for next year and that Don has expressed a willingness to run for Board of Trustees President and Mary is willing to run for Vice President and that Jerry is willing to be Treasurer. Still would need candidate for the position of Clerk. Capstone presentations next week on Thursday and Friday, Lori encourages all to attend. There is a Governance meeting at that time so Lori unable to attend. Still waiting to hear from Matt Ginnetty regarding Washington St.

Recognition of the Month (7:07pm):

Dr. O'Malley talks about the unique aspect of the capstone projects and how they are done which makes them special at BFCCPS. Two students speak to Trustees about their capstone projects.

Haley Goulet speaks about her project, which spearheaded the creation of the new dog park in Franklin at Dacey Field. She chose project because she really loves dogs. Not done yet, would like to add on. Ideas of a memorial discussed.

Cam Piorkowski organized fundraiser "Buddy Bowl" flag football tournament and set up concession stand where games were held. Had a goal of getting ten teams to participate ended up with thirty teams showing up. Raised a total of \$8K and the monies go to various veterans charities.

Open Comment Period (7:24pm)

None

Clerk's Report (7:25pm):

Don reviews minutes from December meeting. Some typographical errors corrected.

Motion: Anna initiates and Ed seconds a motion to approve minutes from December 8th BOT meeting with discussed changes.

Comments: none

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Head of School Report (7:28pm):

Honk, the school play this year will be taking before our next BOT meeting.

Applications for new students have run above average from last years numbers. Based on demand we should not be below 450 students in the future.

Gail Trotin started Saturday chemistry program and Kathy Urkevic has started a save our earth initiative aimed at piquing students interest in science. Dr. O'Malley commends both of them. BFCCPS will be celebrating Chinese New Year. Students from all grades have been working on a dragon to be used in the celebration. Ben Franklin day coming up will be sponsored by student council. General tenor of the school is super. A time to be very optimistic. Report on character education may be single most important theme we had when school was started.

Heather talks about the classical education block, this year changed existing arts block to include classical education pillar. There are two goals first to broaden offerings and second lower class size (some classes are as low as 15 students). Classes in creative writing, Mr. Duque did a toy shop exercise where students create and market their own products like they were running a real business. Continue to offer advanced art classes.

Joe speaks about community service. Says that the capstone projects are the culminating service project of students experience in BFCCPS. Capstone begins in Kindergarten. Three levels of service projects, local level, school level and global level. School wide service project for the third consecutive year is Heifer International. Some staff planning trip to Heifer Farm in Rutland, MA. Two school wide community service afternoons, one day in fall and one day in spring.

PEC (Parent Enrichment Council) playing large role in community service initiatives. They were the driving force behind the Santa Foundation drive this winter. For those looking for additional service projects they can be a fantastic resource.

Discussion about website, progress on design, content, etc. Still a work in progress and Luke is collecting info on requirements.

Treasurer's Report (7:56pm):

Jerry reviews financial statement included in the BOT packet.

Action Register (7:59pm):

Anna reviews action register included in BOT packet.

Annual Appeal Update (8:05pm):

Mary and Poh-Lin update Trustees on Progress of annual appeal. A reminder that the annual appeal is still underway was sent in yesterdays pink sheet. Before update was sent \$8,450 had been raised.

Conversation with Heather Zolnowski (8:07pm):

Judy Bergesen has given her notice that she will be retiring at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Has been a member of the BFCCPS faculty for 17 years and was one of the original teachers at BFCCPS.

Heather thanks all for nominating her for Head of School moving forward. Learned a vast amount from Dr. O'Malley and he is leaving BFCCPS in excellent condition and feels that transition will be nothing but smooth. Very excited to continue work Dr. O'Malley has done uniting the k-8 faculty. Looking to advance technologies use in the academic program at BFCCPS, to strengthening academic program and working with faculty on 21st century skills for students, engineering, mathematics, but not losing the focus on educating the whole student.

Discussion/Creation of Core Knowledge Curriculum Task Force (8:22pm):

Discussed last month. Committee formation policy states that current sitting trustee must chair but essential that educators play a key role on this task force.

Strategic Plan (9:02pm):

Nearing end of five year strategic plan. Need to consider strategic plan moving forward.

Facilities Update (9:05pm):

Don updates BOT on status of lease negotiation with Church.

Motion: Tom moves and Lax seconds motion to adjourn meeting. (9:06pm)

Comments: none

Result: Motion passes unanimously.