

Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School (BFCCPS)
Board of Trustees Meeting
DRAFT Minutes
Thursday, February 9th, 2011 7:00pm

Attendance: Vice President: Anna dos Santos, Treasurer: Jerry Cimmino, Head of School: Dr. Kevin O'Malley, Mary Barton-Rau, Ed Callahan, Lax Iyer, Santhi Marusamy, Tom Viveiros, Poh-Lin Yeoh

Absent: President: Lori Clements, Clerk: Don Tappin, Assistant Head of School Heather Zolnowski, and Director of School Operations and Student Activities: Joe Perna

Call to Order (7:05pm):

Anna opens by thanking Lax for speaking at the information night.

Open Comment Period (7:07pm):

No comments.

Recognition of the month (7:09pm)

Dr. O'Malley highlighted BFCCPS' ongoing efforts to recognize different cultures. He then spoke about the school's effort to recognize the Chinese New Year by having all members of the BFCCPS community contribute to painting a section of a dragon that is sketched on the basement wall. The members of the board who were in attendance, then went downstairs to each paint a section of the dragon.

Clerk's Report (7:29pm):

Tom reviews minutes from December meeting. Some typographical errors were corrected.

Motion: Jerry initiates and Poh-lin seconds a motion to approve minutes from January 12th BOT meeting with discussed changes.

Comments: none

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report (7:31pm):

Jerry reviews financial statement included in the BOT packet. Tuition revenue and operating expenses were highlighted.

Motion: Jerry initiates and Mary seconds a motion to adjust the budgeted tuition revenue down to reflect the decrease in anticipated tuition reimbursement.

Comments: none

Result: Motion passes unanimously.

Head of School Report (7:37pm):

Dr. O'Malley reiterates how BFCCPS highlights multicultural awareness and talks about how the dragon project is a great example of this. Dr. O'Malley then mentions immigration night and how the school is celebrating different cultures and backgrounds from various different countries.

Dr. O'Malley mentions building concerns: age, leaks, heating issues, etc. He does, however, mention that the building owner will be fixing the heat and leaks.

He also mentions that the staff has come up with a technology plan that has been submitted to the Finance Committee. Anna mentions that the plan contained language that would allow for the possibility of eliminating computers from upstairs and move them to carts to make them more mobile. This is still up for debate.

Faculty basketball team will be on February 15. Dr. O'Malley invites board members to join and play and he highlights how much fun it is for all who come.

BFCCPS continues to increase in popularity within the greater Franklin community. For example, at information night there were people from 18 different towns this year.

Matt Ginnetty speaks (7:55pm):

Mr Ginnetty is a founding parent of the school and the president of the Benjamin Franklin Educational Foundation. Anna begins by explaining a little about the Foundation. She mentions that the Foundation is a non-profit whose function it is to support the school. The Foundation currently owns 10 acres of land near Washington St. An old railway runs right through the land. CALPERS own a section of the land and CB Richard Ellis now manages property for CALPERS (the largest pension fund in US).

Matt then takes some time to brief the Board on the history of the land and talks about the ongoing negotiations with CALPERS to come to an agreement that would allow a new charter school to be built on the land (either through purchase of CALPERS' share, or some other means). He mentions that the tone from CALPERS has changed in past 6 months and their ability to negotiate has been hampered by other problems within CBRE's portfolio.

The remainder of the conversation was meant as a brainstorming session with the Board to derive options for moving forward. Several options were discussed and the Board agreed to have Matt contact a lawyer with whom he is familiar for advice on moving forward. Matt agreed to brief the board in the near future on his findings.

Action Register (9:15pm):

Anna reviews action register included in BOT packet.

Annual Appeal Update (9:25pm):

Poh-Lin updates trustees on the progress of annual appeal. As of today, \$9,500 has been raised.

Motion: Poh-Lin moves and Ed seconds motion to adjourn meeting (9:27pm)

Comments: none

Result: Motion passes unanimously.