

BTN Minutes 1.26.14

In attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Matt Wernsdorfer, Gwen Mullin, Dr. Ronald Howell, Curtis Pope, Leah Abrams, Kelly Caswell, Kia Harper, Eric Rice, Mark Matthews, Sidney Brooks, Demond Brightful, Angela Newman (future board candidate), JT Thornton

Opening: 5:15pm

Ice Breaker activity - North, South, East, West - determining how well we work with others

5:40 Review of minutes from last meeting (11.24.14)

Motion to adopt, seconded, passed unanimously

5:44 Report on school visits and challenges (JT Thornton)

Visited both schools; rewarding experience. Challenges board members to visit to gain and enhanced perspective and to inform our work as a board.

Staff at Independence reported their expectations for the Board.

5:50 Guest teachers who want to create a charter school - interested in possibility of becoming a BTN school; committed to teacher leadership

Independence School Report

Received three year renewal; need work in the areas of HSA Algebra pass rate, College and Career Readiness, four year graduation rate. Re-envisioning Exhibition process - how to change the exhibition process so that it fulfills the charter and still maximizes student learning time.

Growing and staying true to the charter - overwhelming for teachers, who take on so many responsibilities. Trying to stay with one staff member for every fifteen students, but difficult with the growth of the school.

May be necessary to increase student enrollment between 3-6 students to afford the leasing in the new building.

Learning Incorporated building across the street from Independence, \$600,000. Abell Foundation has a grant for capital improvements for charter schools. Considering this as a possible location.

No information about when the construction will begin on the Poole campus/building, and still questionable when it comes down to the new Governor and funding.

6:06 Connexions School Report

Connexions grew a great deal from last year; 58 students over. Recruited and absorbed students from schools in the surrounding area that were shut down and getting them used to the new culture has been a challenge. Teachers deserve credit for helping students to take charge of their own learning.

Getting through Bridge projects (required for those who did not pass HSA); working on SAT scores.

Renewal site visits begin April 28th and 29th.

Inviting members of board, parents, and community members to participate in a mock SER on the 12th-19th of February.

Teachers are stressed about the PARCC testing. Taking 5 different assessments at Connexions.

Working with data that exists; looking to have a partnership with Independence to address how to use assessment data.

Feb 5th meeting with parents for school governance. Board members encouraged to attend the variety of upcoming performances at the school.

6:20 Finance Committe Report

Adjustments to salaries, resulting in approximately \$7000 net income

Information about moving expenses that will be covered under ED's report.

Schools' budgets - new significant changes every quarter for both schools.

Independence's budget is ready for approval.

Not voting on Connexions budget until February, after we have all had a chance to review it. Ms. Harper needs to submit a budget draft for 2016 by end of February.

Because we receive money quarterly, we need to be more conscientious about our cash flow and expenditures. Need forecast budget from February to the end of June.

6:35 Strategic Plan for End of Year and after 2 Years

Articulation of what we are expecting of ourselves as a Board; Executive Committee recently held a conference call meeting about this topic.

Asking Board members to spend time with this plan, reflect on it, and come with questions and addendums.

6:40 Executive Director's Report

Over-enrollment at Connexions, issue resolution: We will receive \$38,000 for 4 students; we have declined the offer for the loan.

\$200,000 request to Dr. Thornton to support Teacher Resource Center; fundraiser Catholic Charities staffers to work in BTN and Connexions as staff, saves BTN staff salaries.

Charter School Coalition - needs to communicate with BTN about what the Coalition supports.

BTN Relocation Options

Students and parent councils developed at both schools

6:53 Ron Howell: Fundraising Events

Top three out of the five venue options

- 1) National Aquarium - but doesn't provide parking
- 2) Martin's
- 3) Maryland Zoo

Underwriting/profit margin considerations; proposal that Executive Committee explore further and make decision. Seconded, motion passed unanimously.

7:05 Future location options for BTN

Recommending 2701 N. Charles because of location, excellent space, electricity and custodial services included.

Moved that Executive Committee make a final decision on the new space, seconded, motion passed unanimously.

Comment on ED Report that Independence be charged only 6% contribution (back in July); check minutes from July meeting

7:21 BTN Budget Approval

Reservations about BTN budget over projections, such as the amount for Occupancy \$21,250

Motion to approve budget, seconded, did not pass

7:30 Meeting adjourned