

**BTN Board Meeting  
10.27.14**

In attendance: Matt Wernsdorfer, Rev. Duckett, Elijah Etheridge, JT Thornton, Eric Rice, Kristine Sieloff, Ron Howell, Shanelle Hopkins, Breasean Jenkins, Matrice Gandy, Gwen Mullen, Leah Abrams, Mark Matthews, Kia Harper, Jonathan White, Sidney Brooks, Student Representative Mark Matthews, Jr.

**5:05 President's remarks and approval of agenda**

**5:20 School reports**

Connexions (20 minutes)

5 students sent after enrollment cap reached; Board should be providing payment for those students (approx \$50,000). School has to put in application for enrollment increase by Friday. Meeting with Board was about lottery process, Connexions running its own lottery - "opting out" - rather than allowing the school board to run the lottery.

Debating pros and cons of Connexions running its own lottery. Kia will reach out to other charters that are part of the school board lottery process.

Budget question: What is the bottom line that the school is aiming for with cuts to the budget? Aiming for \$75,000 in cuts. There will be a budget to approve after the next true-up, within two weeks.

How many teaching positions in the school are currently on BTN payroll?  
Dependent upon certification; 8 are not certified. Kia will send report to Eric Rice about teachers and certification status.

Independence

Camping trips completed except for one - 11th grade next week. Some students on Senior trip were sent home.

Bridge scheduling completed. Stanford 10 results in, working on grouping students.

Peer observations started - goal is to spend a half hour a month observing a colleague.

**5:45 Finance Committee Report**

Most of the discussion was about the over enrollment at Connexions.

**6:00 Executive Director Report**

Need to discuss student enrollment caps at each school.

Connexions: 450 is the goal minimum; projection of 500 students as ideal. Comfortable with that number as long as the school has the staffing and infrastructure to support that number.

Independence: Among staff, there is a desire to maintain number of students that they currently have, as well as the teacher:student ratio. Kelly Caswell is entertaining the idea of possibly increasing that cap of 130. Elijah is recommending that we approve a cap of 175. The staff is very opposed to that number, but possibly because staff doesn't have access to the information about why the increase is financially necessary.

Motion to ask the staff of 333 to sit down with BTN staff and further discuss the potential funding needs for the future and how that relates to the cap that we want made by JT, seconded by Matt, passed unanimously.

School leaders dismissed - Continuing with Executive Director's report

Proposed that we adopt a policy regarding teachers be required to hold certification to teach at BTN schools.

Concerns - shortages of Math and Science teachers; city doesn't provisionally certify anymore. There are also degreed Arts teachers who aren't certified.

Non-certified teachers cannot enter grades.

Non-certified teachers receiving salaries equivalent to a certified teacher is a problem.

Suggested that we create language to provisionally hire non-certified candidates under the condition that they will become certified.

Decided that we will adopt #4 - Only certified teachers will award credit to students in any BTN school, effective immediately.

Proposed, seconded, passed unanimously.

#### **6:48 Introduced Curtis Pope as a potential Board Member**

#### **6:51 Candidates for School Review Committee**

Matt Wernsdorfer tells Board members to volunteer for one of three committees, send him an email.

#### **6:56 Nominations for Vice President of BTN Board of Directors**

BreSean Jenkins withdraws his name from consideration.

Some legal considerations, whether a staff teacher can be Board Member - there is no legal precedent prohibiting a school staff member from participating.

JT Thornton is remaining candidate.  
Motion that we accept his nomination, seconded, passed unanimously.  
We now have a full slate of officers.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03