

Baltimore Teacher Network  
Board Meeting  
March 30, 2015  
5pm

Shepherd's Clinic/Joy Wellness Center  
2800 Kirk Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Board members in attendance: Mathew Wernsdorfer, J.T. Thornton, Shanelle Hopkins, Eric Rice, Curtis Pope, Chris Seilof, Mark Matthews

Staff in attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Ron Howell, Danise Robinson, Demond Brightful, Leah Abrams, Dan Hall (Independence High School), Isaiah Muhammad (ConneXions)

Guests in attendance: Anthony Pena (potential BTN Board Member), Dr. Helen Atkins, Charrise Paige (potential board member – United Way), Sherri Howell (potential board member – Lawyer)

Meeting began at 5:25pm with Matt thanking everyone for being flexible and changing from the schedule from last Monday to this Monday. Matt acknowledges all individuals who are in attendance and went through the agenda for today.

Icebreaker conducted at 5:30pm – 5:40... What is teacher voice?

Review of minutes from previous meeting  
Chris Seilof made motion to accept the minutes  
JT second  
Unanimously approved

Matt introduced Mrs. Paige and she gave a brief opening statement.

Session went to closed Session to speak about possible board candidate

Moved to go to open Session

Mrs. Paige was unanimously voted in as BTN Boardmember

Introduction of Sherrie Howell by Elijah Etheridge as Lawyer

Ms. Howell has been a practicing attorney since 1993. She ran solo law practice. Works on the board of two other boards and understands the responsibility of being a part of a non-profit board.

Introduction of Mr. Pena by Elijah Etheridge as potential teacher member of BTN Board.

Mr. Pena is a teacher at Booker T. Washington. Education is important to him. He came to Baltimore and began teaching and now works in an administrative role at Booker T. Washington while running a non profit to assist youth in the inner city.

Dr. Helen's Atkins report on the charter bill (see attached)  
Gave the bill

- 1<sup>st</sup> column - What the bill is saying
- 2<sup>nd</sup> column - Hellen's response
- 3<sup>rd</sup> column - What happened since bill was presented
- 4<sup>th</sup> column - Approval or disapproval

### **School reports Independence – Dan Hall**

Just finished exhibitions which were really good. Has a hand full of seniors who are still working on Bridge projects which is concerning but they will be ok.

64% of seniors are accepted and going to 4 year universities.

Debate team did a great job in recent competition and Ms. Black who heads the debate is leaving Independence. JT offered support to the debate team.

### **School reports Independence – Isaiah Muhammad**

Needs improvement on transition from class to class but there has been an improvement on transition time from class since staff have been assigned to assist in the hallways. Noise level in hallways has dropped significantly.

### **Financial Report**

Independence is well within their budget and will have money at the end of the year. ConneXions is over in a couple of areas but some areas will change i.e. salaries  
BTN is the same and nothing to report in change.

The audit is complete and report was sent to BCPS but will be presented at the next board meeting. Audit was complete and no management letter was issued.

### **Principal Search**

J.T. presented the principal selection process (see attached)  
Presented the Search Ad for Principal  
Search committee Executive Committee and Charisse Paige

### **Teacher Hiring Policy**

Eric presented his Policy for Teacher Certification (see attached)  
Matt asked to empower the executive committee to complete the language of the teacher certification proposal...  
Eric moved to adopt and make final decision  
Mark second  
JT nay.... Has concern about the voting on the policy by making decision making

## **Executive Director's Report**

Elijah presented his report and highlighted

Security at ConneXions – Student came in with gun (although it was a BB Gun) it was still dangerous and we will be meeting with Marc Etienne to put security measures in place to have all students enter through on door with a metal detector.

There is a proposal to pull all BCPS Police out of the schools and to place them at North Avenue. Uncertain if it will or will not happen but there is talks about it happening quickly.

BTN is 90% moved in. April will be the last meeting in Carswell and will have a small farewell and May's meeting will be in the new office.

September Fundraiser is still on and there will be a concentrated focus May 1 to promote the event.

Matt asked the each board member to give a donation to show that every board member is financial

J.T. asked for bi-laws and employee handbook...

Meeting adjourned at 7:05pm