

Baltimore Teacher Network

Board Retreat

February 4, 2016

5:20pm

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Wernsdorfer, Jared Thornton "J.T.", Sherrie Howell, Angela Newman, Ziva Richie

Staff in Attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Ron Howell, Fred Smith, Matt Hand, Gwen Mullen, Eric Sunday, Vesna Grujcic, Cornell Dews, Jodie Faye

Guests: Venus Jackson (visiting teacher), Na Bixler (visiting teacher)

Welcome by Matt, President of the Board

Round table introduction

Overview of the Agenda

Ice Breaker

Election of Board Members

Introduction of N. Bixler by Ziva Richie as potential board member.

Closed Session...

Open Session....

Did not have a quorum to vote N. Bixler in as official board member..

Mission – Elijah Etheridge

Our Mission is to grow, sustain, retain a vibrant group of professional teachers in Baltimore who: mutually support each other's teaching practices, influence local school reform policy through public debate and publications; jointly create work environments that encourage true teacher leadership and on-going innovation.

Is this still the purpose today? Is this still the need today? Do we do this?

JT – I look at all of the staff to include administration

Matt – Admin are teachers so yes

Sherry – Professional Educators, its not limited to the two schools. Outside of the schools we are not putting the teachers in place. What are we doing to grow sustain teachers outside of BTN.

Elijah – 1st it was teachers that started.... New teacher institute

Dews – No because we have a high turn over rate at ConneXions.

Ron – We are doing a good job at Independence in retaining teachers. ConneXions has sustained a good group of new teachers, being apart of the hiring system we grabbed from the best group. Ms. Faye can speak to the development of the new and current teachers.

Dawkins – In contact with Towson for support of the school

Venus Jackson – needed based on content area. Speaking to the curriculum that there needs to be more professional developments to focus on how to make lesson plans based on the curriculum.

Jodie – In ConneXions we are doing it but we are not multi school training.

Elijah – Is BTN meeting that need?

Do we promote teacher voice throughout the city?

Matt- I feel that teachers don't have a voice in their own unit. It's the Union responsibility to support/represent the teachers.

Gwen – Teacher Voice vs. Teacher Powered....

Matt - Strategic Planning and Propitiates: The Blue Print
School Development

1. Strong Leadership – Clear and appropriate admin, structure, regular evaluation of admin
2. Teacher Voice – all teachers can say “Our voice is represented” ... 20% of all teachers’ participation in BD or TRC
3. Academic - School

Organizational Development

1. Management –
 - a. School review committees with history of expertise in the schools
 - b. No weakness in auditor report
 - c. Strong process for charter renewal

Day 2

ConneXions

- Dashboard

Independence

- Dashboard

Board Members Expectations

Events

Teacher Forum – Increase Violence in Schools

Invitation to the School District to be apart of the conversation

Increase in school violence. Teacher has had her finger amputated. Teacher has jaw broken.

Student has brought bleach at another student in school.

What does teacher voice have to say about violence in the schools? Most teachers are afraid of their students. We as an organization should facility the discussion.

Matt- We should get people together to have a collective opinion on it and what is it? How do we get that in place to get that voice to North Avenue?

Ziva – When you are at a school you are open prey. You have irate parents.

Matt- What to make sure that we are framing the question to make sure that we are asking the question specifically.

2. Beacon of Light Awards – October 20, 2016

Need the support to the board.

3. Ocean City Retreat – During the Summer

4. Co-Sponsor of Mayoral Debate by NAACP

IKC – Fred

Will launch in September. Will meet with the Baltimore Community Foundation next week. Hope to have four, one in each section in Baltimore and will meet with Dr. Thornton on Feb 24th at 10am to invest in the resource center.

See packet(s)

Expectations of a board member

1. Presence

a. Board meetings

- i. Should not miss more than two meetings per year. Monthly. Only meets 11 times and should make at least 8 meetings. Attend as many requested special meetings as possible. Attend board retreat. Annual meeting is.

b. Schools

- i. One visit per year and/or one event per year

c. Required

- i. Retreat
- ii. Annual meeting

2. Finance

a. Donations

- i. \$100.00 min annually expectation of \$250.00

b. Events

- i. Expectation of one table at an event

3. Committee:

a. Finance Committee:

- i. Brief board on income
- ii. Project expenditure
- iii. Alignment to mission
- iv. Spending to date
- v. Budget reallocation to line items
- vi. Changes of 10,000 to reallocate any line item
- vii. Ex committee approval for any new by line item

- b. Exec
 - i. HR management
 - ii. Enforcing board financial responsibility
 - iii. Risk management
 - iv. Archive information
 - v. Quarterly meetings and as needed
- c. School Committee
 - i. Meet quarterly with school leadership
 - ii. Make recommendations/comments to larger board regarding progress on dashboard

Pluses

Mission discussion

Break out sessions with the parking lots

School Leadership participation

None filtered debate

Agenda items

Hotel appreciation

Delta

More board participation

Agenda participants scheduling

Having the meeting at a member's job

Time Management

More time for in-depth conversation

**** Flip chart paper (notes) from the retreat is available upon request****