

## June 26<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting – Minutes

**Members in Attendance** Matthew Wernsdorfer, Jared Thornton, , Shanelle Hopkins, Pastor A. Hardy, Ziva Ritchie, Anthony Pena,

**Absent Members** – Angela Newman, Venus Jackson, Curtis Pope, Lesley Stepney, Tessa Hill-Alston, Nadralee Bixler, Brad Bixler,

**Guest** , Aurelia White, S. Weaver, Kim Johnson, Linda Harrison, Dimitric Roseboro, Sidney Brooks, Dr. Durant, Thea Becton Connexions PTO, John Price

Meeting called to order at 5:10pm, 1 short of quorum@5:15pm

### **President in attendance 5:07pm**

#### **1. President openings remarks and welcome – End of the year Board year**

- Added to the agenda review of last meeting minutes, waiting for quorum.
- Gala was amazing – thank you to the staff, increased the footprint of BTN,
- Town hall Meeting – Good comment from Dr. Santelesis- “BTN produces spot on events”,
- ConneXions graduation school board member commented “Magic in the room”
- Time given to review packets before proceeding.

2 changes in the Executive Director presentation

-tabling the Principal Selection and

-the Vacation Policy to move to the executive section.

Break for dinner 5:20

**2. Approval; of last meeting minutes 5:32pm** – Question on the floor about last meeting attendance? Correction to 4/24/17 minutes Sherrie Howell was in attendance/ Question about absent members was resolved -Motion – A. Pena 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Howell ,

#### **3. Finance /Committee – Shanell Review only –**

- School Year budgets were set through with Principals from both schools and Leah and finance committee,
- deadline review can continue with current budget until approval of new budget.
- Question about Independence SY 17-18 budget is based on 128, 140, 150
- Mr. Roseboro stated his cap is 128 students, BTN is the other number,
- per pupil numbers are final \$9,288 last year \$9,276 additional fees and mores expenses from district.
- A. Pena question- Are we still in the red for Independence? Executive Director responded we are out of deficit.

- Executive Director stated there are 3 different projections for attendance; 128 district number if we were allowed to get to 140 / 150 we will be heading to an excess.
- Executive Director directed the school to get to 150,
- M. Wernsdorfer, noted his budget can't be submitted over 128.
- S. Hopkins were approved for 128.
- Executive Director stated we will seek assistance from the district to get funding for the 150 students, were on the record for 136 and our daily attendance was 114(interjected by D. Roseboro), were trying to demonstrate a need for school.
- JT question about the budget he wants a detail of the salaries from the staff.
- Pastor Hardy questioned what was the maximum # each facility can accommodate at each school? ConneXion #460,(S. Brooks) at capacity Independence Maximum #150 currently 114(D. Roseboro). Pastor Hardy offered assistance with recruitment techniques.
- Executive Director gave insight on our budget and student capacity. When the district approved ConneXion, we supposed to be at 460 for school year 17-18, 475 for 18-19, and 500 students school year 19-20.
- S. Brooks - We have access to to build our life skills above our current enrollment 20 additional student, the district has decided not to extend us students above our 460 cap.
- S. Hopkins homework for the board review and make recommendation to finance committee about budgets (homework)

**4. Connexions biggest challenges vacancies- guidance counselor leaving –** over enrolled by 40 students through attrition through summer this should level out, life skills expansions

M. Wernsdorfer – questioned the number of incoming, new 40 enrolled (S.Brooks),

A. Pena-any other pressing issues? (S .Brooks) all 46 teacher exit interviews completed,

Executive Director commented- in spite of what we experienced this year, this year is the lowest number of staff leaving, must be a good indication. Teachers are rallying behind Mr. Brooks

S. Brooks continued- Summer programs started. 3 camps of 160 children in the school today, Griots Eye, Pop and Youth works has sent over children 15 working with the programs,

M. Wernsdorfer- question. How has sharing the space with BARD gone? good relationship with Frankie (S. Brooks)

**Independence** (D. Roseboro) board report in folder – graduation 27 seniors 2 were from 2016, 22 out of 27 graduation, 2 /5 in summer school 81% graduation rate.

Composite report slated for 128 students for 2017 school year,

M. Wernsdorfer percentage wise is average, but Roseboro rebuff that 150 is too many for the facility. The school is sticking with its mission of moving students with challenges to achievement. 2018 1<sup>st</sup> class eligible for CTE certification. Independence is an environmental school. Other highlights -continued success with staff shortage, special ed staffing shortage, maternity leave and even one case where ED Mentor was used for on line class.

A. Pena -Any summer meetings for school leadership? D. Roseboro- yes summer meetings 3 days a week. Also, this summer 3 day literacy camp 7/27 jump start for students. Also we are pursuing grant from MSDE Dr. Dalton received support for peer coaching, collaborative peer coaching goals.

A. Pena asked- who makes up the leadership team? D. Roseboro- Principal, Ms. Vesna, Ms. Mullen, and the SPED chair are working together, this group is also developing into evaluation team. (5) 9<sup>th</sup> graders are going to summer school.

M. Wernsdorfer asked about status of charter renewal, D. Roseboro - September October writing , November December submit , SER review documentation expected back by end of summer.

**5. Plus and Delta** – Dr. Durant + great open to all BCPS employees / more newspaper coverage, Thea Becton guest, + Organized nice flow/ - promotion how we share expression, Linda Harrison + Panel and responses good turnout/ - more media coverage, S. Weaver +Back drop venue location, design school team on point with guest organized/ - time could have been longer to force panelist to answer more questions, Sherrie Howell+ diversity on the panel/- didn't feel there were more questions out there that got to the board gripe, Anthony Pena +well attended / -follow up event planning extended opportunity to answer questions and a fall follow up meeting to help people stay on task, Roseboro + very professionally ran / -timing to late date the majority of the discussion, timeliness of town hall to recap and follow up what's next, Brooks +panel/-follow up with individuals that were there to build momentum, JT +impressive venue and food /-more time for answers to questions fewer people on the panel a lot of people on the panel. Some that were on the panel to throw barbs at others, Matthew Wernsdorfer +panel the event securing Kirwan was a huge deal with Santelesis and other panelists, the ACLU was present because they are leading for underfunding / - facilitation was horrible. Grouping questions together and chooses the question better one to help stay on topic, barbs about things they should stay on topic, Elijah Etheridge + great big event / - so what has to be identified and it has to be identified by the organization. As BTN is positioning itself on the scene what is the so what about.

**6. Executive Director** presented report , Teacher Town Hall covered, Code of ethics document, Collaboration with TSU July 7 meeting with Towson MW Carla Finkelstein, meeting with Dr. Joyce Epstein, all other department reports , discussed the Retreat and funding sources for TRC

Moved to closed session S. Howell 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Pena