



**Board Meeting-February Meeting  
Monday, April 29th, 2019  
5:00pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Wernsdoffer, Anthony Peña, Imani Bryan, Curtis Pope, Sherri Howell, John Berggren, Tessa Hill-Aston, Michael Susko, Gar Roberts, Brad Bixler

Staff in Attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Dr. Ron Howell, Ayanna McLean-Principal Independence, Anne Rossi-Roots & Branches Principal, Ms. White-ConneXions, Dimitri Jackson, Ms. Williams-Teacher at Independence, Linda Holmes, Ashley McGill

**5:18** Matt welcomed everyone and began the meeting. Matt talked about his experience at ConneXtions and the amazing instruction he was able to be a part of during his stay at the school.

**5:25** Matt made a motion to include action items from the board to be included at the end of the minutes. Sherrie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.

**5:26** Review of Roots and Branches budget for March. Mike asked about the delay in the financial reports. Anne requested a month to month financial statement

**5:38** Reviewed Independences Budget. Ms McLean raised issues with 2 English and 2 Math positions being on approved by the city but were not included in budget drafts. The positions would be discussed at a finance committee in the following two weeks to figure out the discrepancies. Also talked about not doing Outward bound next year because of the lack of interest. CSI information would be available next month for Independence.

**5:45** ConneXtions budget was reviewed. And issue was brought up about improving the projections for increasing the allocation of money for more subs because of the shortage of teachers and the drain from staff taking and using their sick days.

**5:55** Reviewed the BTN Budget. Brad Bixler brought up that the neither Elijah of Dr Howell have received a raise in almost 3 years. It was mention that it should be further investigated in the Finance committee in the next two weeks. Elijah mention about the percentages that each school pays BTN for their role in the school and discussed how each % is calculated based on number of students enrolled.

**5:58** We broke for dinner

**6:10** We began to discuss the proposed 2019-2020 budget. Curtis reviewed the proposed budget. Matt brought up that we raised the money for assistants for BTN which should result in more assistances to the school for support. Elijah discussed the importance of meeting the 5% Reserve and being financially responsible.

**6:25** Sidney brought up the CSI budget may increase, and funding should be revealed by the next mtg and be included in the budget. Discussed about hiring positions and supporting Union positions with Union employees.

### **5:58 Principal reports-**

**ConneXtions-** Concerns about the vacancies in the school. June 5<sup>th</sup> is graduation after school. PROM is May 24<sup>th</sup> at Pier 5. June 7<sup>th</sup> is Middle School closing.

**Independence-** Graduating Senior 25 out of 26 by August. Ms McLean will report what a total number of Cohort actually is. CSI said only 63% graduate because of 5 students didn't graduate because of human error in how they were scheduled. Graduation is June 1st at 10am at BCCC Liberty Campus. Looking for a guest speaker. Prom is with ConneXions.

**Roots and Branches-** Working with parents and focus groups as they prepare to shut down. CSI is engaged in the process of closing the school down and not to worried about attendance even though it has slipped a little bit. Principal Rossi is closely monitoring it.

### **6:42 Executive Director Report**

- Teacher/Student forum focused around Discipline Policy and our working relationship with the Union to help craft the new district discipline policy.
- Interfaith Prayer Vigil follow up on May 7th, 2019. It focused around a call to action for men and to have each church in attendance adopt a school in the community to help embrace.
- Elijah asked for permission to resign the extensions for both Independence and ConneXions charter renewal. John made a motion and Tessa second the motion and all voted in favor.
- Elijah is asking permission to pain the school at ConneXions for 30,000 with a contract he has in hand. Brad mad a motion to table it to the next Finance committee and it was never seconded.
- Board did not approve moving forward with painting.
- Anthony gave two announcements on Black teacher recruitment meeting at Violetville on Tuesday at 5:30. He also announced that there has been safety issues with social media threats across 5 schools.

**7:10** Board voted to end meeting

### **Next Steps**

Decide how to paint the school or approve the painting contract

Determine if a pay raise is feasible for Elijah and Dr Howell

Moving forward with implementation of CSI corrective actions.