

BTN Minutes

Monday, September 23, 2013

5:46 pm

In attendance (board members): Eric Rice, Kris Sieloff, Erik Sunday, Matt Wernsdorfer, Martrice Gandy (by phone)

Prospective Board Member: Chrissa Carlson

School Directors: Kia Harper, Cynthia Wilson, Kelly Caswell

Executive Director: Helen Atkinson

5:46 1. **Review/approve minutes** (5 minutes)

- a. Minutes approved unanimously with amendment to reference Independence budget revision request

5:51 2. **New Business** (10 minutes)

- a. Election of New Board Member

Chrissa Carlson - Unanimously approved

Discussion of including interested parents on the Board; might make sense to have a parent and possibly a student from each school.

6:02 **Executive Director Report** (20 minutes)

Signing of conflict of interest form

Outreach plan for resource room - Result of negotiations with Youth Dreamers for use of building and with health center for use of parking lot. Service day at Carswell Building on October 19th for gardening/maintenance.

Outreach to area schools

Important CTV meeting on Monday, 9/30.

Idea to have Connexions and Independence hold PD at Carswell House, outreach to area schools, invitation to hold PD here as well.

Connexions Charter School Contract Renewal - held up by enrollment issue

BCPSS had unsubstantiated "true up" numbers for both schools; makes planning for the schools extremely difficult given delay; BCPSS overestimating expenses.

6:26 **Editorial Stance for Website** (15 minutes)

Blog posts may need a disclaimer to protect board members and school leaders from repercussions over political stances. Emphasis on providing a forum for teacher voice, even though that voice may not represent the majority of BTN members. Defining professional standards for posts, such as no ad hominem attacks. Someone should take on the responsibility for defining the standards for posts on the webpage.

6:42 **School Reports** (60 minutes)

a. 325

Discussion of rebuilding of Steering Committee (ref. Monthly Report 9.18.13) and the scope of what the committee's focus should be in enhancing teacher participation in decision making. School leaders can provide guidance, an essential question to invite discussion and input from steering committee.

More strategies about getting the MTA stop for Connexions

Only one remaining BTN employee; other is conditionally certified and another took the Praxis last weekend.

December 16th & 17th - student choreopoem performance; board members should attend one of those nights

b. 333

Budget request unanimously approved (ref. Sept 13 Independence Monthly Board Report)

Growing the school - meeting with architect; whether Independence is able to grow beyond current numbers. Uniqueness of Advisory system. Proposing raising the ceiling to 250. Necessity of culture building; may take 4 years. (Architect recommends growth to 500.)

Will continue conversation about this and revisit the original Independence Charter as well.

7:41 Finance Committee Report (10 minutes)

Update on budget situation at both schools.

Payroll template revision put into place and being used by the schools; more accurate way to track expenditures

Motion to adjourn; unanimously approved