

## **BTN Board Meeting Minutes: 4.28.14**

In attendance: Erik Sunday, Eric Rice, Bresean Jenkins, Matrice Gandy, Chrissa Carlson, Kris Sieloff, Garey Hyatt, Matt Wernsdorfer

**5:30 Adoption of minutes** - Minutes unanimously approved; updates - school bell schedule at Connexions was accepted. Recommendations for school leadership - Discussion must take into account recent developments.

Funding conversation continues - Eric Rice, Kia, and Kelly contacted by MSDE for legislatively mandated survey about charter school funding.

### **5:35 Executive Session - Personnel Issue**

Move to offer ED position to Elijah Etheridge, seconded, passed unanimously.

### **5:41 Discussion of Future School Leadership**

Previously existing Interim AP position at Board of Ed was eliminated; alternative/provisional route for principal certification, but current principal of Connexions has 27 of 36 credit hours completed toward certification; cannot be appointed "Managing Assistant Principal."

Kelly could be Managing AP at both schools until Kia completes the necessary coursework. Must have a Qualified Observer to complete observations. Will continue to push for Kia to be designated because we have a charter agreement that allows us to have alternative school leadership.

Eric Rice will continue to explore our options around this issue, including looking at staff members at Connexions with Admin I certification.

### **6:05 Discussion of Financial Reports**

No real questions of issues about BTN's, Independence's, or Connexions' budgets.

Connexions' desire to hire a grants consultant: Questions about terms under which she will be hired. Would be employee of BTN rather than of the school. Candidate is willing to demonstrate ability prior to formalizing agreement.

Candidate also noted that BTN Board should become more involved in fundraising, ie, "give and get policy."

### **6:20 Discussions of School Reports**

Teacher committee at Connexions - staff moving toward what next year will look like, including concerns about moving into new space, whether school will get another behavioral specialist.

## **6:25 Discussion of Board Composition for Next Year**

By July, we need to finalize slate of candidates for positions; discussion of including parent from each school. We especially need to fill the Treasurer vacancy. We need to find new members, including Committee for Teacher Voice, but meetings have not been well attended. We should look for an attorney to have on the board. New teacher representatives elected in the fall; Erik Sunday and Martrice Grandy will be in charge of that at their respective schools. The new Executive Director will undoubtedly have input on the composition of the BTN board.

## **6:40 Other Business - No other business**

## **6:50 Kia Harper called in** to respond to questions about Connexions school report

Eric Rice requested list of staff and salaries to avoid repeat of last year's budget issue; projected budget - will recoup much more than previously anticipated (difference of \$20,000); came from specific line items where spending did not occur with regard to personnel.

Matt Wernsdorfer's question about 66% unsubmitted attendance (since down to 33%); due to teachers not knowing how to take attendance in SMS; lack of working desktops for individual teachers; also needing to be on top of professional responsibility to take attendance.

Additional information about the move? Kia is slated to go to the district tomorrow to see if their proposal has moved forward or been approved by Facilities.

Charter Coalition seems confident that funding at \$9450 per student will go through; may alleviate funding issues for the school; may end up being worth one whole position. Technology is a big issue at the school that needs to improve.

What happens if the move is not approved? No plan as of yet, but working on contingency plan should that happen.

Final evaluations for this year are taken care of; questions from staff about how school will function with one less staff member and additional number of students. Need to solidify that as of July 1.

Word from Goucher about credits? Kia will have to ask Goucher to allow her to finish her action research in one semester rather than one year.

Reservations about Kelly's name appearing on official Connexions' business, but will become important for observations.

## **7:15 Meeting adjourned**

