

BTN Board Minutes: Thursday, May 29, 2014

In attendance: Elijah Etheridge (new Executive Director), Eric Rice, Chrissa Carlson, Erik Sunday, Matt Wernsdorfer, Gwen Mullen (replacement for Erik Sunday as teacher representative for Independence), Kris Sieloff, Helen Atkinson (outgoing ED), Kelly Caswell - principal of Independence, Bresean Jenkins

5:27 Meeting called to order; Adoption of Minutes (3 minutes)

Minutes unanimously adopted

5:30 Discussion of School Reports, Finances (21 minutes)

Independence Budget - overage by \$62,600 due to principal position; money being held until "true-up" in October. Continuous back and forth with North Ave about who owes money - BTN or City Schools. We will need to check the true up carefully.

Projected enrollment is at 130; 22 ninth graders signed up for next year; still space for 20 and currently interviewing. Tend to take 98% of students who interview.

Graduation this weekend at 10am at Independence; Eric Rice is attending.

Putting off discussing Connexions until Kia Harper (Principal) arrives.

5:51 Discussion of Board composition for next year (62 minutes)

Eric Rice's term is up; Chrissa Carlson is considering taking over as president. Should have official slate by June.

Elijah Etheridge - Need to work on development as a high priority for BTN, in terms of fundraising and program development (student and parent organizing and serving as networking resource for teachers, producing quarterly newsletter. Need to get BTN schools' teachers more involved as well.

Question about fundraising for what purposes?

Money to develop BTN's capacity as an organization to provide voice for teachers and affect educational policy as well as to support each school in their special missions - Connexions' arts programs and Independence's green school initiatives, wilderness experiences, internship and community programs.

Funding for next year - Charter School Coalition has said that \$9450 per student will be guaranteed.

Issue with Connexions - Facilities at North Avenue has said that rent has been paid for only 15% of the building

260,000 sq ft in building; \$780,000 that will have to be split in half by Connexions and MATHS. In terms of Connexions getting permission to occupy more space, still haven't received any news.

Connexions - Dealing with teacher on medical leave, FMLA issues; staffing for next year.
Teacher Leadership team - necessary to define what is meant by "leadership" and perception that it confers some time of authority onto group, or hierarchy.

Leadership changeover by July 1st - may be able to get Kia appointed conditional Principal, may include conferring qualified observer status on her.

Opposition to testing at Connexions among teachers could be potential rallying point for Teacher Leadership Team - larger issue about what it means to teach at a BTN charter school, educational mission and teacher belief.

6:53 Further commentary on issue of BTN prioritizing development (15 minutes)

Necessary to increase development priorities.

We will engage in strategic planning process in mid-July (two full days) with outside facilitator to chart clear course of direction for organization - to create strategic work plan for both the Executive Director and the Board members.

7:08 Disseminating information about Connexions summer program

Chrissa advises Bresean to go through City Schools Inside, Principals' Dashboard; Kelly provides contact names.

7:10 Move to adjourn, seconded, unanimously approved.