

Baltimore Teacher Network
Board Meeting
February 23, 2015
5pm

Shepherd's Clinic/Joy Wellness Center
2800 Kirk Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Board members in attendance: Mathew Wornsdorfer, J.T. Thornton, Shanelle Hopkins, Gwen Mullen, Matrice Gandy, Eric Rice, Curtis Pope,

Staff in attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Ron Howell, Danise Robinson, Demond Brightful, Shari Thomas, Leah Abrams, Kia Harper, Sidney Brooks, Kelly Caswell, Vesna, Tim Hamilton

Guests in attendance: Angela Newman from NACCP, Charisse Paige from United Way, Tanika Patterson from Highland Town Elementary School, Dr. Kim Worth (potential new charter school with BTN)

Meeting began at 5:15 with Matt thanking both Independence and ConneXions for attending the joint PD at Johns Hopkins University School of Education that he facilitated. He stated that he is excited about the teacher's participation and how they are coming together to work with each other collectively and looks forward to the up coming symposiums that came out of the PD.

Matt gave a brief introduction of Angela Newman potential candidate for the Board of Directors and was asked to give a statement. Mrs. Newman stated how pleased she was to be asked/invited to be apart of the Board of Directors and that she is ready to work not only with Independence but ConneXions too. She feels that she can bring a wealth of experience and fresh ideas to the board to move both schools forward. Mrs. Newman was asked to leave with Dr. Howell so the board could vote. The vote took place and it was unanimous. Mrs. Newman was invited back into the conference room and welcomed to the board as a voting member.

Matt welcomed Dr. Kim Worth and her colleague to the meeting. Matt stated how he, Elijah and several others from BTN has met with Dr. Worth concerning the start up of the DaVinci School and the possibility of coming under BTN as our new charter school. The floor was turned over to Dr. Worth for her presentation (see attached).

After Dr. Worth's presentation she was interviewed by the board as follows:

Eric Rice asked what do you need from BTN?

Start up funding. Of course I would have to leave my job and focus solely on the start up of the school and I would ask that BTN supports that initiative. In addition, I would seek funding for start up through state and federal funds.

Independence School Update:

Kelly Caswell presented a brief report announcing that there are two people retiring at the end of SY15 (Danny Roswell and herself).

Kelly stated, how do we continue to improve academics for the next 5 years? Her response was to replace chemistry with anatomy.

As far as the senior class, H.S.A. Bridge Projects – this class has the most bridge in the history of Independence. To assist with the future and curve this Vesa is teaching S.A.T. Prep classes. In response from this, students are accepted to community colleges and four year universities. The new push is focusing on college and career readiness to get a 5 year renewal next charter renewal. College and career readiness was the area that prevented Independence from getting a 5 year renewal.

Another area of focus is on an authentic master schedule. Vensa is assisting with that specified guidelines as she starts the next 5 year accountability year plan.

Kelly's focus is on closing out this year strong!

ConneXions School Update:

Kia Harper thanked BTN for supporting the retreat to Ocean City, Maryland and mock S.E.R. (Matt & Brighful)

ConneXions enrollment was not decided at 475 and wait until the renewal to ask for another increase. Having students not being paid for impacts budget. The current enrollment is 449 and next year will be 425.

Most of this year has been devoted to logistic and we are preparing for the formal S.E.R. on April 28 and 29th at ConneXions.

Finance Committee Update:

ConneXion's was presented to the board. Board voted and budget was approved unanimously (see attached budget).

Independence budget has already been approved and nothing has changed.

Board has approved to empower the executive committee

Matt Wornsdofer reiterates that during his discussions with Elijah, he is sure that the existing staff would assist with the student recruitment and in the search of a facility for the school.

Elijah Etheridge confirmed the staffs availability and confirmation of his discussion with Matt.

Matrice Gandy asked what about students with disabilities? Has this been thought about? What are you plans to address the special education population?

We have a special education coordinator on the team who is apart of writing the charter. Would like to be an inclusion school if possible, we will not turn away kids with special needs.

Gwen Mullen asked what happens when the students don't achieve as you thought on tests?

We will provide lots of support to teach through the tests. Teaching above the test is what they will focus on so when the test is given, pass rates are successful.

Demond Brightful asked how many assistant principals?

None! Our leadership team is all teachers. I will serve as lead administrator splitting my day half teaching and half sing administrative work. On the leadership team we will not have any assistant principals. We will have specialist to focus on their areas of expertise.

Elijah Etheridge asked who takes charge in the school when/if chaos breaks out?

Our staffing model is two teachers per class. Integrated classes will have two teachers to assist during teaching hours. Each teacher will take a role in leadership as I will have the main role of managing the school.

Sidney Brooks asked where do you want your school to be located?

Centralized to public transportation. We are not locked into a certain area just as long as it is accessible to or on a bus line.

After the brief interview by the board of directors, Dr. Worth and her colleague was asked to move into the waiting room for a closed discussion by the board to vote on the DaVinci School becoming apart of BTN's portfolio.

Meeting moved to closed session for the discussion with board of directors concerning the possibility of the new school partnership with BTN.

Meeting moved to open session and Dr. Worth and her colleague was invited back into the meeting where it was announced that the DaVinci School was voted on and unanimously approved that the DaVinci School become apart of the BTN charter school portfolio.

Executive Director's Update:

Board has approved the annual fundraiser at the National Aquarium on Thursday, September 24, 2015. Each board member will be responsible for 10 tickets (one table).

The lease is signed for the new office space and TRC. Move in is scheduled for June 1st. Letter to vacate Carswell has been delivered to the Youth Dreamer and they are aware of our intent not to renew the lease.

We are planning a second Joint PD. Our goal is to have one speaker around teacher voice with one teacher from the board to sit on the committee in preparing the final joint PD for the SY15.

Matt in the final moments apologized for skipping of the approval of the January minutes. After a brief review the minutes was approved with the correction to change the year from 14 to 15.

Board meeting adjourned at 7:08pm