

Board Meeting-March Make-Up Meeting
Monday, April 16, 2018
5:00pm

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Wernsdoffer, Anthony Peña, Curtis Pope, Ziva Ritchie, Sherri Howell, Gar Roberts, Brad Bixler.

Staff in Attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Ron Howell, Linda Harrison, Michael Durant, Sidney Brooks-Principal-ConneXions, Vesna Grujicic-Acting Principal Independence, Sherri Weaver, Leah Abrams, Jessica McLeod-AP ConneXions, Anne Rossi-Roots & Branches Principal, Roots & Branches board member: John Berggren.

Matt opened board meeting @5:09 p.m.

5:09 Matt welcomed everyone and started off with an icebreaker “Hero or fable that inspired you as a child.”

5:10-5:14 Participants shared with each other.

5:17: Matt discussed we have a lot on the agenda to cover.

Brooks: requested Moment of Silence for a student they loss over the weekend. We also discussed moment of silence for the brother of Tessa who passed away and Ms. Robinson’s mother who has failing health.

5:21 Board review meetings and voted to accept minutes with Brad’s last name “Bixler” corrected.

5:22 Leah discussed financial report and changes to budget. We are a positive point and net income is positive. BTN is carrying some Independence’s expenses. Leah wants to meet with Howell about true costs. New lease and conferences was paid out of BTN budget. Vesna asked about conference updates.

Matt asked “When will we vote on FY/18-19 budget.

Leah responded, “In May.”

Matt: How does Roots & Branches count for next year’s budget?

Leah: We will include them in budget.

Brad: Why is one school have testing costs and another doesn’t?

Howell: Independence doesn’t use testing that requires costs.

Matt: We need clarity around testing costs. An answer is forthcoming.

6:35pm Updates on the following:

- Walk through of New Independence – Walk through the New Independence with Vesna, Ms. Mullen, Dr. Durant & Elijah went well. Building looks fantastic. Moving day is July 31st
- Retreat at Ocean City – August 2018
- Gubernatorial Town Hall at ConneXions – Tuesday, May 8th @ ConneXions. All Candidates are confirmed.
- Courageous Conversation – Guide for White Women who Teach Black Boys – Friday, May 18th @ JHU. Please support
- BCPS projected funding to go down \$221 per pupil
- Independence's All School Retreat in Sandy Cove – September 4th -6th
- Board Retreat – Sept/Oct (undecided)

6:50pm moved to Executive Session

- Brad Bixler 1st
- Sherri Howell 2nd

7:38pm Open Session

During closed session the board of directors discussed and came to a consensus to put forth Ayana McLean for Principal of Independence School Local 1.

Brad suggested to support ConneXions student in fundraising for trip to Africa for Nelson Mandels 150th Anniversary.

- School committed 2k
- Elijah & Matt committed \$500 with the Board to match. Deadline is May 1st

7:48pm Brad moved to adjourn the board meeting Ziva 2nd