



**Board Meeting**  
**Monday, February 26, 2018**  
**5:00pm**

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Wernsdoffer, Anthony Peña, Curtis Pope, Ziva Ritchie, Sherri Howell, Mr. Perkins, Brad Bitzler, Gar Roberts, Pastor Hardy, Tessa Hill-Alston

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, Roots & Branches Principal, Roots & Branches board members.

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

**5:09** Matt welcomed everyone and mentioned that February was Black History month. He read a passage from a poem and asked all attendees to turn and talk and reflect on the passage.

**5:11-5:17:** Attendees discussed their reflections on African-American experience.

**5:20** Board approves January's minutes.

Curtis notes a change in insurance 19,717 should be turned to 0 and moved to bottom.

**5:21** Principal Brooks speaks about losing funds in special ed and is requesting \$20,000 for funds to buy Chromebooks.

Anthony and Brad asked questions about number of students with SPED.  
Principal Brooks said ConneXions' population will reach to 500.

**5:24**

Ms. Vesna noted that IEP meetings are going well and SPED has seen improvement. She mentioned Exhibitions on March 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:00 p.m. Attendance is at 77%. She shared upcoming events in their calendar.

Matt thanks Independence and the work under the leadership of Ms. Vesna.

**5:27**

Elijah discussed Independence's improvement in Executive Board report.

Board took a moment of silence to remember the victims of Florida.

Elijah mentioned Independence and ConneXions standing together with the students of Florida arriving in DC in March.

Elijah mentioned writing a response to President Trump's decision to arm teachers with guns using a White paper.

JT advised that the White paper could be considered political.

Brad said that BTN represents all teachers and he agrees with the arming of teachers. He asked for a balanced message.

Elijah said he would write White paper and stay clear from politics but echo the sentiments of BTU and AFT.

BTN has a qualified approved audit clearing BTN of any issues.

There is a pupil reduction of funds for charter schools next year.

Principal search has begun for Independence.

Independence is moving back to the old Robert Poole building. Students will attend a special retreat.

Elijah thanks John Price for writing a bill for Teacher Resource Center.

JT asked Leah and Curtis about budgets for 2019.

Leah said Elijah wants budget approved by June and that we should start budget talks now.

Sherri Weaver asked about the logistical support for Independence.

Elijah said most materials at Independence will stay and will have new items.

**5:42** Matt postpones discussion on BTN relocation until executive committee meets. Matt moved the conversation to Roots & Branches and where BTN falls in the agreement.

**5:44** Elijah discussed the BTN visits to Roots & branches. R&B board voted in January and BTN will take over the responsibility of the board. The two corporations will remain but there will be one board once a vote takes place.

Roots & Branches board President discussed that they recognize the power of the board and the work could be strong.

JT asked about board member numbers on Roots & Branches.

Roots & Branches board President said that there would be changes to Bylaws to make it work.

Matt explained that we would have meetings for 6 months

The BTN board approved the motion to adopt Roots & Branches.

**5:56** JT asks that principals submit school reports at least two weeks ahead of time to allow board members to read them.

**5:57**

JT moves to adjourn.

BTN adjourns.