



Joint Board Meeting for Baltimore Teacher Network and Roots & Branches
Monday, May 21, 2018
5:00 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Wernsdorfer, Anthony Peña, Brad Bixler, Curtis Pope, JT Thornton, Ziva Ritchie, John Berggren

BTN Staff Members in Attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Dr. Howell, Jessica McLeod, Sidney Brooks, Vesna Grujic, Anne Rossi, Ryan Richardson, Dr. Durant, Linda Harrison

5:12 Matt welcomed and called the meeting to order.

5:16 Anthony requested Moment of Silence for students we lost this year to violence.

5:17 Curtis said he would meet with Finance Committee this week to discuss budget. Project '19 budget has been postponed.

5:18 Matt asked board to look at Minutes and approve minutes.

Motion made by Brad to approve both meeting minutes.

Mike asked about whether retreat information was available.

Ron and Matt provide information to Mike.

2nd Motion by JT. Board approves minutes.

5:21 Curtis discuss Finance reports for ConneXions, Independence, and Roots & Branches. Ron explained advertising costs associated with recruiting teachers.

Vesna inquired about \$900 food costs associated with Committee search process.

Brad agreed and asked that BTN encumber the costs.

Elijah said the budget line is subjective. Elijah explained BTN costs. JT asks that we move the concerns to Finance committee.

JT motions that Vesna send the concerns to Finance Committee for review.

Brad 2nd the motion. Board approves the motion. Committee will share findings with BTN full board.

5:34 Principal Brooks discussed ConneXions's report. SER feedback was positive overall. The feedback was honest and fair. The area of growth was Data and what the data process was. They will use MAP instead of PARCC scores. He made a case for a 5-year renewal.

Matt interrupted Mr. Brooks to congratulate the work of the staff.

Mr. Hamilton resigned as he took a job with Eureka Math. The school received Green Schools Award. The school had 135 mothers show up for Mother's Day brunch.

JT acknowledges Mr. Brook's leadership in the work.

5:42 Ms. Vesna discussed Independence report. Sped is in full compliance. Dr. Durant and Ms. Vesna met with Dr. Brooks about Sped. Only 3 teachers are fully certified for PARCC. The academic and action plan for SY 2018-2019 has been submitted to Office of New Initiative. Attendance rate is 80%-85%. SPED concern in terms of high number of SPED students and current staffing model does not work. Matt asked Elijah to follow up with North Avenue about SPED. Brad asked about why graduations for both schools are at the same time. JT said we would use it for reflection for next year.

5:51 Anne discussed Roots & Branches report. The SER feedback was overall good. The school is doing Moving Up and Closing Ceremony. Field Day will be on June 18th. Arts Integration is important and events are planned around it. Community partnerships are going well. Students worked on special project for Earth Day. SWCOS is working to bring more social-emotional support for the school. School governance council is being formed at the school and parents are working on a meeting date. School will receive Title I funds next year. School can handle 160 students at the school and currently they are at 150. Moving Up is June 14th at 6pm and June 15th is Closing ceremony at 10am.

Anthony asked about summer school and costs. Vesna noted that summer school for charter students is \$500. Elijah said ConneXions will work on costs for Independence students.

6:00 Special Presentation by School Governance Committee-Melissa McDonald on Teacher Voice and results were shared.

Matt asked about number of staff compared to number of responses (15).

One ConneXions member said that there was fear of staff speaking up on survey.

Brooks said he has an open-door policy.

ConneXions' members said some staff are new and some are veteran and there is a difference in how people adjust to administration.

JT informed guests that Bylaws ask for Governance council and that every month there are elected representatives from each school.

Matt asked presenters to come up with SMART goal and work plan for board for next meeting.

6:18 Elijah discusses Executive Director report.

6:31 Open Comments session

- Parent discussed her concerns with Principal search committee.
- Open House for 6th and 9th for ConneXions for next year. BTN information will be included. The event is in mid-June.

6:40 Motion made to go to Executive Session.

Vesna alleges:

- BTN hires people with criminal records.
- Parents have raised criminal charges.

7:05 Board moves to open session. Personnel matters were discussed.

7:07 Board moves to adjourn meeting.