

Board Meeting-
Monday, February 25th, 2019
5:00pm

Board Members in Attendance: Matt Wernsdorfer, Anthony Peña, Ziva Ritchie, Sherri Howell, Kevin Swearinger, John Berggren, Tessa Hill-Aston, Michael Susko, Brad Bixler, Leah Abrams

Staff in Attendance: Elijah Etheridge, Michael Plummer, Ayanna McLean-Principal Independence, Sherri Weaver, Jessica McLeod-AP ConneXions, Anne Rossi-Roots & Branches Principal, Ms. White-ConneXions, Ms. Williams-Roots & Branches Assistant to Principal, Dimitri Jackson-Independence Assistant to Principal, Ms. Williams-Teacher at Independence, Ashley McGill-Business manager for ConneXions, Linda Holmes

5:35 Matt welcomed everyone and began the meeting. Introduction of 2 new executive board members.

5:36 Matt suggested to include next steps in meetings. Talk about resilience and how to deal with trauma. How we take joy and use it to spread and the power it has on others around us in everyday life. Everyone took turns introducing themselves and saying something positive about what is going on in their life.

5:46 Guests were introduced Delia Wilson, Ivan (Parent of Elijah) Chestnut
Elijah suggested out of meeting with Mr Chestnut to have a parent resource room to help parents with struggles.

5:52 Anthony motioned for acceptance of meetings and board approved. Brad second motion. Accepted

5:52 Leah reviewed summary of the school entities budget. Maytt talked about 990 form and disbursement of resources from Roots and Branches to be dispersed for the end of the year. Questions about tax burden from previous year for Roots and Branches. More clarity will be provided by next meeting. No other financial questions.
Roots & Branches did not have an update report yet.

5:58 Principal reports-

onneXtions- Focus on evaluations with staff. Working on budget and numbers for next year. Discussing next steps for school evaluations and root causes. Discuss next steps on security for the building. 20 children went to Chicago for Black History celebration. Partnership with the Holistic Foundation. Offering a mediation piece for the middle school students. Discussed about

random check in the building but didn't have the staff to man the metal detectors. Discusses next steps to help maintain order when coming into the school.

Independence- Working on budget with Mr Brooks, staff member out on FMLA. Issues with transcripts and scheduling issues, Their was 81% all school attendance and some issues with attendance around weather. Issue asked about chronic absentee. She has 27 students like being by parent's bedside in hospice. PBL training and need implementation of PBL and help teachers with planning and helped them create module. Negative was that teachers didn't know how to marry PBL and common core curriculum. Recognized Dimitri for his role in helping keeping the school together in middle of absences.

Roots and Branches- Working on placing the kids to other schools. Robert Coleman is potentially moving into the building. Stop parents from moving around the building to help keep school safe. Matt asked about other reasonability of closing school. Title one allocation or grant funding goes back to school.

6:29 Executive Director Report

- Joe Askins is visiting,
- Elijah talked about school security. It's a priority to hire security staff with reserve funds. Elijah is asking executive staff to make decisions.
- Elijah is asking about the Maryland Alliance for public schools. Board has given Elijah discretionary decisions on spending under 10,000.
- Rest of report is left to be read

Next Steps

- No new things mentioned for approval out of Executive session.

6:42 BTN goes into closed session.

7:21 BTN ended closed session. Board provided Elijah (ED) with next action steps.

7:23 Sherrie moved to adjourned and ziva second.