



**Board Meeting-October Meeting  
Monday, October 21st, 2019  
5:00pm**

**Board Members in Attendance:** Matt Wernsdofer, Sherri Howell, Brad Bixler, Ivan Chestnut, Tessa Hill- Alston, Gar Roberts, Ms Ritchie, Curtis Pope, Kevin Swearinger

**Staff in Attendance:** Elijah Etheridge, Dr. Ron Howell, Ayanna McLean- Principal Independence, Sidney Brooks -ConneXions, Linda Harrison, Cynthia Jacobs, Valerie Taylor, Sherri Weaver, David Cox, Shari Thomas, Ms Freeman, Ms. Mcleod, Leah Abrahms

**5:25** Opens up with Matt talking about how proud he was of a government leader when he was watching a speech by President Obama. He asked us to talk about the last time we were proud of our Government leaders and share with a friend.

**5:30** Curtis reviewed the current budget.

**5:35** Dr. Howell talked about the shortage of students at Independence. Current amount of students is 120 out of 150 students. Working on trying to close the gap on the enrollment. Kelvin will implement a plan to have the principal to develop a strategy to increase the enrollment. Mr Bridgers articulated a concern about not having a plan with a history of attendance problems at Independence. Bridgers challenged BTN to have a standard of excellence when it comes to the standards.

Matt offered criticism that when the board ask a question that everything is ok and the next meeting we find out that there is a problem.

**5:45** Matt offered up Kevin Swearinger to transition from the Roots and Branches board to the BTN Board. The board Unanimous approved Kevin Swearinger. Tessa made a motion to approve and Curtis second the motion

**5:50** Mr Brooks talked about they were able to get the young man from BDJ who stepped up to take care of the young man who was brutally attacked at BDJ. They staff took charge and wrapped their resources around him when he was transferred to ConneXions.

**5:55** Mr. Brooks was expecting to see a shortage in SPED funding. They eliminated a staffing position that wasn't needed because of new scheduling format. Enrollment is 515 yet we are only eligible for 500 students in the cap.

**5:59** Mr Bridgers spoke for Principal McClean who was absent. 8 out 12 exhibitions 1<sup>st</sup> quarter projects developed. I-Ready testing freshman 87%, sophomores 95%, Juniors 97%, Seniors 100% participation levels in testing.

**6:05** Elijah opened up with a moment of silence for Elijah Cummings who championed the city of Baltimore. Elijah talked about the event BTN organized and carried through with this event. Elijah took 5 students to Atlanta for the NAACP. 4 from ConneXions and Independence. Elijah was impressed at our students in regard to how they carried themselves while on the trip. Mr Bridgers launched first volunteer class 25 of them graduated and moved into the schools. Beacon of Light Gala was switched form the Grand to the Radisson in the Inner Harbor. Bridgers asked if we could include Independence in the ceremony.

**6:34** Matt suggested that we table action plans for next meeting.

**6:35** Gar motion to end the Board meeting and Tessa 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.