

The Bridge Academy
Board of Directors and Governing Council
Monday, February 10, 2013

Present: Tim Dutton (ex-officio), Rachel Allison, Kit Kaolian, Vince Musto, Jaquie Marumoto, John Rogriguez, Dee Fuller, Elisa Martinez, Branden Dejesus, Nataya Riley, Ramon Bulerin, Christopher James, Michael Bologna, Celeste Markle, Shanda Sanders
Board of Directors members not in attendance: Zanaib Muhammed, Ken Smith

The meeting was called to order at 6:04.

- **Public Comment:** No public comment
- **Must Fail list and removal update:** Kamisha Edwards spoke in defense of her son who was put on the Must Fail list for the second marking period. Tim recommended that the student be removed from the Must Fail list partly in response to a letter Ms. Edwards wrote and because the student has been making a greater effort to get to school on time in the last month. The Board agreed to take the student off of the Must Fail list. Tim also spoke on behalf of a student on the must fail list who had documentation of having received a concussion; the Board agreed to remove this student from the list as well.
- **Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Board of Directors minutes were approved unanimously as were the minutes for the Governing Council.
- **Old Business:** No old business to report
- **Status Report and Update on School:** The multiple snow days, delay days and early dismissals have had an effect on school climate. Things seem to have calmed back down over the last week or so. Exams went well. Honor Roll Certificates were distributed. Tim explained that a student was mugged on the way to school today; his cell phone was ripped from his pocket by a teenager who said he had a gun. We distributed a letter about the incident to all students. The police promise a greater presence in the area from now on. Rachel reported that there was an uptick in detentions and suspensions at the end of January, which is an historically difficult time for students. Things have calmed down a bit in the last week or two. We have scheduled our 7th grade trip to Washington D.C. and Boston. We are administering CMT's in March and Smarter Balanced after that.
 - Sandy reported on the five year charter renewal of Park City Prep and their adding of a fifth grade.
- **Parent Meeting Topics—Update on March, “teaching ethics”:** The next open Governing Council meeting is scheduled for March 3. Sandy distributed a “Letter to the Editor” from the New York Times suggesting that the teaching of ethics should be a standard part of school curricula. Elisa read a paragraph from the essay. Tim discussed how ethics are a complex issue because different groups (teachers, students, parents) have different ethics and loyalties. His expectation is that we will have a very interesting discussion on this topic. Michael said that incorporating ethics into a curriculum could take years of preparation and he assumes that Bridge already emphasizes ethical behavior. He wouldn't suggest adding ethics to the curriculum anytime soon. Victor said that he wonders how open people will be about their own ethical standards. Celeste suggested breaking the meeting down into smaller groups to encourage people to open up. Nataya agreed that it is a complicated topic and that it will be difficult for everyone

to come to consensus. Tim said consensus was not the goal; we just want to have a discussion about the idea of how or even if ethical behavior can be taught.

- **Safe School Climate Action Plan and next steps—What survey?:** Tim is looking for a valid, useful survey that will allow us to analyze parent, student and teacher perceptions about school safety. The Board approved the use of a free survey found on line (as opposed to a 20 minute survey purchased through a company that charges \$1500.)
- **Emergency Plans and Procedures, Update on New Plan:** Tim has begun rewriting and updating our Emergency Plan.
- **School Wellness Policy (formerly Food Service Council) review of evaluation—Healthy Foods:** Board members were given the results of our formal survey.
- **Title 1 Parent School Compact Update:** RTI programs are continuing in the middle and high school.
- **Other New Business:**
 - **Middle School Finals Proposal:** The middle school math teacher wrote the Board requesting that they approve his plan to eliminate a final exam Must Pass policy, which required that students pass the math final with a minimum grade of 65 or go to summer school remediation. He would like to replace the final exam requirement with a performance standard that would require students to master a certain number of topics by the end of the year. The Board approved the change.
 - **Upcoming Grants:** Tim is working on two grants. One will be used to fix leaks in the roof, renovate the main office, and fix the parking pad issue. We received a \$5,000 grant for the summer school assistance program.
 - **Board Gift:** Sandy asked members to begin planning for another Board gift. We will also give several book awards from various colleges to deserving juniors.
- **Personnel:**
 - **Update on Job descriptions:** We are still working on finalizing job descriptions.
 - **Middle School Social Studies, High School Science update:** The Middle School social studies teacher is doing very well. The High School science substitute did not pass her last Praxis test. If she does not pass we will have to revisit her position. We are also working on hiring a long-term substitute for a maternity leave in the middle school.
- **Financial Committee Report:**
 - **Review of Current Expenditures:** THE mistake between administrative and teacher salaries has not yet been fixed. The current budget does not accurately reflect the financial health of the school, which is currently strong. A discussion ensued about how or whether to simplify the budget report.
 - **Review of Credit Card Statements:** The credit card process has been streamlined
- **By-Laws Committee:** Michael was apologetic about not having completed this process yet; his goal is to have the by-laws revisions done soon.
- **Technology or Website Committee Report:** Ken Smith is ill and not in attendance
- **Building Issues**

- **Engineering Report:** We are holding off on contracting
- **Other New Business:**
 - **Nominating Committee:** None of the possible Board members have contacted Tim yet.
 - **Approval of State Non-Discrimination Policy:** We submitted a
 - **Healthy Food Certification:** We have been a part of this certification program for years and Tim recommended continuing. The Board unanimously approved maintaining our Healthy Food Certification.
 - **Middle School Trips:** The Board asked that the school report on the middle school trips to Washington D.C. and Boston after the fact. Tim suggested that two students from each trip report to the Board. It was also suggested that students be required to complete one or two simple assignments related to the trip.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm. The next meeting will be held on March 10, 2014

NOTE: Meeting is at 6:00 pm at the Bridge Academy, 401 Kossuth Street. Members should contact Timothy Dutton (203 336-9999) or respond to him by return email regarding their plans to attend this meeting.