



## **Board of Directors**

Monday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015

*The Bridge Academy is a small, caring, public charter school with a rigorous learning environment.*

*All members of The Bridge Academy community listen to and communicate with each other, are able to respond to diverse needs and give the consistent effort necessary for personal and academic growth.*

**Present:** Rachel Allison, Dee Fuller, Kit Kaolian, John Rodriguez, Vince Musto, Wendy Phillips, Jackie Marumoto, Michael Bologna, Celeste Markle, Sandy Lefkowitz, Vik Muktavaram, and Guest Paul O'Neil.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm

1. **Public comment (Each guest is allowed 3 minutes):** Guest Paul O'Neil explained the service he and his company would be providing to the Board. They would be reviewing the Board to make sure they acted in a legal, ethical, and effective manner.
2. **Approval of minutes from previous (July) meetings:** A motion to approve July minutes was granted.
3. **Old Business:** It was decided that because there were a sparsity of Language teachers available at short notice, the school hired a French for our freshman and sophomores.
4. **Status report and update on school:** Over the last few weeks there has been an ongoing problem with the ability to provide transportation of students. One solution that we had arrived at with the City of Bridgeport was that The Bridge Academy be provided with a few dozen bus passes. Along with that we will also be providing a few bus tokens to the students who might not receive passes. It was explained to the Board members that everything possible is being done to try and safely arrange for transportation for our students.
5. **Personnel:** (Fingerprint reports, early retirement plan, agreements and negotiations, stipend adjustment, new personnel...): The Board members were reminded and given a deadline date as to when their fingerprints needed to be taken.

A successful negotiation has been agreed upon with the previously mentioned employee from past meetings. All agreements have been signed, sealed and settled accordingly to cost mentioned from past meetings.

New hires for the high schools are: English teacher, Guidance Counselor, and Language teacher  
The Middle School hired new science teacher.

It was recommended and put to motion that an Administrative stipend be adjusted for the Librarian and The Administrator evaluator. A motion was moved and approved for both employees.

6. **Governing Council update:** (September meeting): The busing issue was a discussed and the introduction of the French language. The parents have concerns that Spanish will possibly be dropped completely. These issues most likely will be talked about in future meetings, along with the options of having an after school Spanish club.

7. **Financial committee report:** (15 minutes, Marumoto, Dutton) The budget discussion was about the budget up until July 31. It displays positive surplus; this will be adjusted by the next meeting. The budget shows a surplus than last year. The budget reflected an enrollment of 275 students. We are expecting to enroll a student body of 280 which will increase the revenue.

The Construction income came in last fiscal year and the expenses were reflected in this year. That was not included on this report only to avoid it seeming as if we were substantially over budget. There were Budget changes to reflect salaries to on all new personal and change based on Special Ed reimbursement for the City for our Special Ed students.

- Accounting manual update on credit cards
- New auditor, credit card statement review, monthly report, next year's budget: A bulk of the Audit has been completed with the new auditors; over the next three months they will be writing the full audit with possible minor suggestions on how to improve small items; such as review of the credit card expenses.

8. **Building issues (1 minute) (Dutton) – New grant:** Building committee report- Bid documents: The asbestos from the gym roof/ceiling has been removed; the new roof has been finished. The Slab (ceiling repair in basement) has been completed, new doors have been put in. The windows have been ordered and we are in the process of locking the interior doors to up security. The final pieces will be the Science rooms and the Art room which should be completed by the end of next summer.

9. **Executive session:** No Executive Session.

10. **Other New Business:** At the request of Board Members ID's are available to obtain through Mr. Dutton. Also, on September 30<sup>th</sup> there will be a welcome meeting for the Teaching Staff and the Board of Directors, before the school's annual Open House. It is important that both groups meet to acknowledge the part these groups play in the smooth running of the school. It was explained to the Board that 10 copies of "Pride" will be purchased and given to the Board as suggested reading.

Smarter Balance reports show that the city of Bridgeport scored more proficient in 7<sup>th</sup> grade but in 8<sup>th</sup> grade we came out more proficient than the City of Bridgeport. For the 11<sup>th</sup> grade, which was the other grade that tested, we were ahead in English and behind in Math.

In the upcoming meetings we will be discussing, the State's new evaluation process in expectation of a charter renewal by June 2017.

11. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.