



Board of Directors

Monday, December 14th, 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, Kit Kaolian, Vince Musto, Wendy Phillips, Jackie Marumoto, Sandy Lefkowitz, John Rodriguez, Michael Bologna and Tim Dutton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

1. **Public comment (Each guest is allowed 3 minutes):** No public comment.
2. **Approval of minutes from previous (October) meetings.** November meetings were approved.
3. **Old Business:** No Old Business.
4. **Status report and update on school (enrollment, suspensions, school climate):** As the end of the year and holidays near; it is often observed that a slight dip in attitude and productivity from the students occurs. With that we have some positive student activity to speak on. A few of our students were thanked for helpful volunteering before Thanksgiving break at St. Rose's church. Some students also attended a debate club that the high school English teacher has started. SAT scores are starting to come in; seniors have been submitting applications for colleges. PSAT's scores are coming back as well. Teachers are attending training programs for the SATs as well; in part for the new testing programs.

Middle school has had a small incline in bus suspensions. The previous program of Book Buddies will be brought back; this is when middle school students read to the day care at the Y. Along with that Bridge will have its first Open house in January. We hope for a positive turn out.

Due to incident that has occurred out of school; two of our high school students are suspended pending expulsion. With this situation in mind it was asked of the Board to allow the appointment of an expulsion committee to be formed. The following will be members on that committee: Ramon Bulerin, Jesse Toro, Tyreke Bird, Sharron Sanders, Monika Montalvo, Na'taya Riley and Maria Rives. A motion was moved and granted.

5. **Personnel (Fingerprint reports, evaluation of administrators change, evaluation training, State letter, new hires):** A recent update in the staff fingerprints has shown that more than 98 percent of the staff and board have all gone to have their fingerprints done. Administrator's evaluation is all set; the evaluator will be coming in soon for another round of evaluations.

It was brought to the Boards attention that one of the new hires is missing a small component to be fully deemed a certified educator by Connecticut standards. This teacher is currently in the process of having all required paper work filed and filled out to have this situation rectified.

6. **Charter School Performance framework explanation (Dutton):** We are still moving forward with the students signing up and registering for college classes. Almost 15 more students are scheduled to take placement tests.

7. **Marketing ideas and thoughts:** We are still waiting for the application from Encore; but for the moment Mr. Pimentel has been out collecting Testimonials on graduated students. Currently in the works is the planning of a series of luncheons for Alumni as another hopeful resource to getting more testimonials.

More ideas of how to market for the upcoming open house and future enrollment were discussed.

8. **Governing Council update (November meeting):** It was recapped to the Board that a small committee was formed with the purpose of creating a format for the next Community meeting that will be held in February. Along with that Wendy has contributed knowledge of a helpful association that will educate students and parents on many aspects of what to expect when transitioning into the new realm of applying to college.

We will also have various organizations and speakers coming in at the upcoming community meeting to explain a little broader on topics such as: Financial aid, earned income taxes, filing taxes for free, Savings program, Chet program, parent loans, etc. We are also hopeful in having the school building be used as a nonprofit tax center later on as a long term goal.

9. **Financial committee report (15 minutes, Marumoto, Dutton)**

- **Credit card statement review:**

- **Monthly report:** If all stays on track we will end the year with a possible surplus. However there is a great chance the credit line will be needed for a small amount of time.

- **990 review and acceptance:** This is our tax form that ended on June 30, 2014; this form cannot be submitted without Board approval. A motion was made to approve the 990.

- **Audit review and acceptance:** It was found on the audit that there was a significant deficiency, in that a payment was made so a fraudulent vendor. Other than that everything came back okay.

10. **Building issues (1 minute) (Dutton) – Roofing, security grant:** The building security grant only reimbursed 80 percent to begin leaving us with a \$30,000 deficit. It is hoped we can request to move this deficit to the Charter School Construction grant.

Currently 384,000 has been spent; we were awarded 815,479.00, and now have 430,000 left to apply to the remainder of the roof work, security grant and renovate the science rooms. We have a set of plans for the science rooms to be sent to the architect to be drawn up and to be sent to bid. On June 20th work should be under way.

The office windows are expected to arrive sometime at the beginning of January.

11. **Executive session:** No Executive Session

12. **Other New Business (marketing, competitive environment, wait lists):** it was mentioned that we had applied to a grant from public square. This grant will provide the school with some extra funds that will be applied to teacher training. Public Square reviews the whole school and helps develop a system for long term improvement.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm