



Board of Directors

Monday, January 11th, 2016

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, Jacquie 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.** December meetings were approved.
3. **Old Business:** Board member terms were discussed; the slate for the following year will be presented electronically and voted on at February's Board meeting.
4. **Status report and update on school (enrollment, suspensions, school climate):** The school will be holding its first open house this month to encourage enrollment. The middle school just held their first dance before holiday break as well as a luncheon for the students that did well first quarter.

High school students will begin midyear testing, A series of reassessment test will be going on to identify the students' improvements and to identify areas of necessary help.

The Board was informed of an incident that had occurred off school property with 2 students which incident involved a stolen gun and the arrest of both students. It was mandatory that both students be removed from school. One student was awaiting an expulsion hearing and the other had stipulated agreement. Charges were ultimately dropped for the student waiting for the expulsion hearing.. Since then, this student has returned to school. The other student continues to be educated outside of school.

5. **Personnel (Fingerprint reports, evaluation of administrators change, evaluation training, State letter, new hires):** The employee that was missing a minor component to their certification of teaching has received all proper paper work. Employee renewals are coming up in April; this is for new employees who are non-tenured. It is expected that most will be joining us for another upcoming school year.

February 26, we will have 2 professional educators come to the school to evaluate The Bridge Academy's performance. These evaluators are hired by the Public Square Foundation as part of a grant which they are intending to present to us. They will provide the Board and the Foundation with a detailed written report on school operations.

6. **Charter School Performance framework explanation (Dutton):** The school is continuing to enroll qualified students into classes at Housatonic. We are preparing the juniors for their first round of SAT's.

7. **Marketing ideas and thoughts:** Applications are being sent out to current students' families in hopes of them being handed to friends. The Bridge Academy is applying for an Encore Fellow who will help, design and build an online marketing presence for The Bridge Academy. The Encore Fellow is someone with business experience who is looking for a chance to apply their skills in the non-profit world.
8. **Governing Council update (November meeting):** Our next meeting will be on February 1st and will be our second open community meeting. Topics for the meeting are: Financial Aid; Tax preparation and earned income tax credit; information on the CHET program and various savings programs.
9. **Financial committee report (15 minutes, Marumoto, Dutton)**
 - **Credit card statement review:** use of the credit card has peaked, this is mostly in part to the purchasing of used textbooks.
 - **Monthly report:** Year to date our budget is on track.
 - **Public Square acceptance:** The Bridge Academy has been accepted by the Public Square Foundation. They will be providing the school with technical assistance and training in an effort to improve school performance. The school informed the Foundation that The Bridge Academy feels strongly that school improvement must not diminish our support of challenged students, or force our teachers to adopt a universal teaching style.
 - **Audit review and acceptance:** The request to change the audit report by adding in the value of the listed fraudulent transaction was not received favorably by the auditor. They explained that it would be an expensive change. The school would leave the audit "as is".
10. **Building issues (1 minute) (Dutton) – Roofing, security grant:** Science plans for electrical and plumbing are in the works and should be submitted to Mr. Dutton by the end of the month. The fire proof glass for the front entrance is being shipped and should be installed in the near future.
11. **Executive session:** No Executive Session
12. **Other New Business (marketing, competitive environment, wait lists):** The annual middle school trips to Boston and elsewhere will be added to the budget.
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm