



Board of Directors

Monday, November 9th, 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, Vince Musto, Wendy Phillips, Jackie Marumoto, Vik Muktavaram, Sandy Lefkowitz, John Rodriguez, Michael Bologna and Tim Dutton.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 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):** There have been minor ups and downs with two students. One student has been suspended for a few days; the student had seemingly aggressive behavior. As it turns out this student has wanted to transfer out, so as part of a negotiation with the student she must seek counseling to be able to return to school to be transferred out. The other incident with a junior found with a box cutter; the concern with this issue was one of self-harm. This student was asked to attend counseling sessions.

In the middle school, there have been several suspensions. The new students seem to still be adapting to the rules and protocols of the school. Its taking a little more time and every year it seems the groups get a little more difficult; but, the middle school teachers are working hard to better transition the newest students.

5. **Personnel (Fingerprint reports, evaluation of administrators change, evaluation training, State letter, new hires):** Almost all Board members have been fingerprinted or have scheduled to have their prints done. It was also explained that a retired superintendent has been hired to administrate the evaluations of both of Bridge principals. This person will have one day in December in which they will come out and grab a feel for the school. A meeting with Mr. Dutton and Ms. Allison will be arranged to give him insight into their goals for the school and for themselves as administrators.

Generally all of the new hires have been doing well and have adjusted to the building. All charter schools will be attending a rally here in Bridgeport, at Baldwin Plaza. All Students are welcome to attend with parent chaperones for the middle school students. We also will be holding our parent conferences at the end of the week and hope for a great turn out.

6. **Charter School Performance framework explanation (Dutton):** The State of Connecticut has introduced a new numerical rating system for Charter Schools. The rating system is divided into four sections: School Performance, Stewardship, Governance, and Management, Student Population, and Legal Compliance. This framework supports the need for giving our students advanced learning experience at Housatonic. The Board will continue to review school performance based on the new framework for the State's evaluation.

7. **Marketing ideas and thoughts:** We are reaching out to alumni to submit a photo and answer a brief questionnaire about themselves and what they are currently doing. This will be used to advertise how The Bridge Academy has influenced their futures.

We can advertise the school in some local papers. We will also be sending out letters home with students advertising that we are currently looking for applicants; Along with sending applications to local churches.

8. **Governing Council update (October meeting):** A brief review of the Open Community meeting was given to the Board members that did not attend. (The minutes are in the packet received at the Board Meeting.)

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

- **Credit card statement review:** The credit card policy was again reviewed; payments made out for credit cards need to be checked by the bookkeeper, the check signer and the Administrator before disbursement of check. All purchases need to be viewed on the monthly statement as well be accompanied by a receipt or invoice that needs to be attached for separate signature to original monthly statement as well.

- **Monthly report:** Year to date is on track; the forecast has been updated to show all students in attendance. We did show last month \$320,000 grant money and we had received \$80,000 deposit from the state bringing us up to 400,000; and we will be receiving 95,000 in a few days We should have good have a good cash flow report next month.

10. **Building issues (1 minute) (Dutton) – Roofing, security grant:** More roofing work is being completed and we are waiting for a contract to come in to design plans for the science rooms. That proposal should be in before Thanksgiving break, and a building committee meeting will be scheduled. The plans are to start with the science renovations as soon as school finishes in June and the construction to be finished by September. We are waiting on fort he fire proof glass for the front entry hallway.

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

12. **Other New Business (marketing, competitive environment, wait lists:** The Board was informed that there will be modifications made to the website in the future. Also, the idea of a kick start or go fund grant was introduced to the board; this topic will be discussed at another meeting in more depth. The discussion of a Communication Subcommittee introduced.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm