**Bentley Academy Charter School**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Meeting Minutes October 28, 2015

**BACS Board members present:** John Casey, Kristine Wilson, Dick Pabich, Marie Belony, Christine Sullivan, Rachel Hunt, Sara Toce (via cell phone) (Quorum)

**Also Present:** Justin Vernon, Marlena Alfonso and Hai Son

**Opening:** Called to order at 6:08 pm on 10/28/15 by John Casey.

**Approval of minutes**

* Moved by Dick Pabich, second Kristine Wilson. No discussion. Passed.

**Head of School Update**

Justin Vernon provided updates:

* Fifth lottery held on 10/15/15. 257 students confirmed.
  + This was last lottery for the school year.
* Attendance through 10/22/15 was 96.4%. Month of October through the 22nd was 96.7% Very positive compared to 2014 attendance.
* MCAS Highlights – Discussed the results in detail.
  + Strong improvements from 2014 to 2015.
    - ELA - Overall second highest growth in school’s history.
    - Mathematics – highest percentage of proficient and advanced students in the school’s history.
    - Science – overall achievement went down in 5th grade science compared to last year. The staff is working with the district to get professional development for the Bentley staff.
* Blueprint School Network visit was held on Monday, September 28, 2015.
  + John Casey and Ryan Lovell attended the visit. John updated the board about his observations.
  + Very positive feedback on student engagement and motivation. Classes were well structured.
  + Area to focus on was phonics. A professional development session was held to address this.
  + It was recommended that staff celebrations should be held to keep morale up.
  + Next visit is planned for December 2nd.
* Marlena Alfonso presented results of additional testing:
  + A new STEP assessment that has been implemented for grades K through grade 3. This program is a pre-read to step 12.
    - Benchmark for grade 3 is 12. Initial results are low due to new implementation.
    - 80% of students are below target.
    - The test will be run four times per year.
    - Goal is that students move four step levels by the end of the year.
  + Recently took A1 (Achievement Network) for ELA, reading comprehension exam for grades 2-5.
    - Overall Trends:
      * At or above network in all grades.
      * Network is in 50% range. Board would like to see results in 80% range.
    - Next Steps:
      * Data action planning meetings will be held week of Nov. 10
      * Working with Achievement Network for professional development specifically designed for ELA in upper grades.
* Over 45% of families have been visited. 112 visits have been completed.
* Friday October 23 Paul Tucker and Mayor Driscoll visited the school. Marie Belony also attended the visit and felt that the visit was very positive.
* Justin Veron is going to the Salem Partnership with some parents. Senator Lovely will also come and visit Bentley Academy on November 20th.
* BooBAsh with ReMix on October 26 was a huge success.
* Superintendent Ruiz will be speaking at the town hall meeting this week.
* Justin proposed Teach Plus as a way to invest in career development Bentley for staff instead of hiring a head of professional services staff member.
  + Work with T3 (Turnaround Teams) to develop our teachers to lead teams, facilitate meetings with tangible outcomes and increase productivity.
  + Six teacher leaders (one per grade) will be trained.
* Hai Son gave budget update.
  + He reviewed how the grant would be allocated.
  + Kindle Fires will be purchased for fifth graders.
    - A detailed cost will be provided to the board to provide Kindle Fires for grades 3-5.

**Vice Chair’s Remarks**

* Committee membership was circulated. For meetings that do not have chairs, members should give consideration and notify Ryan of interest.
* Governance committee needs to meet and schedule the retreat.
* Meeting dates for the next year have been circulated. Meeting start time is confirmed as 6:00 PM.

**Next meeting date**

* Wednesday, November 18th 6:00 pm

**Adjournment motion by Dick Pabich, second by Rachel Hunt at 7:57 pm**