



SAC MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 28, 2017

Ben Franklin Academy
4:10 pm - 5:10 pm

ATTENDEES: Cindy Brawley, Bill Castor, Mette Castor, Aric Gomez, Steve Haas, Sarah Nisbet, Jen Shocker, Diana Simpson, and Elaine Tunkel

I. WELCOME

- Introductions and Open Comments

II. APPROVE AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

- Sarah Nisbet motioned for approval, Mette Castor gave a second approval – minutes unanimously approved

III. TASKS

A. Student Survey: Sarah Nisbet

- 1st – 5th grade survey:
 - Removed 'Name' field
 - Added 'Gender (Boy/Girl)' field
- 6th – 8th grade survey:
 - Added 'Homeroom' Teacher vs 'Teacher's Name'
 - Added 'Gender (Male/Female)' field
- Plan to distribute student survey on October 18, 2017
- Once survey is completed, results will be compiled as soon as possible
- Results will be presented to teachers on their next in-service day, which is scheduled on November 3, 2017
- Results will be presented to Board of Directors during their next meeting, which is scheduled on November 10, 2017

B. DCSD Charter Study and District Finance Presentation: Jen Shocker

- Five charter approvals requested, four approved
- Four objectives discussed:
 - **Enrollment impact on neighborhood schools**
 - Charter and neighborhood schools have lost students to homeschool and online learning
 - Neighborhood schools are losing students to charter schools
 - Overall school competition makes schools better
 - **Overall financial impact**
 - Transportation cost is more with elementary/middle school for non-charter schools
 - Charter schools spend less money, which demonstrates that money is managed more efficiently
 - **Special Education**
 - Charter schools pay 20% even though Significant Support Needs aren't utilized
 - Charter and neighborhood schools must accept significant support needs.
 - Charter schools have a huge misperception with regards to SSN
 - It is cost effective to pay chosen staff the way charter schools do
 - Psychologists:
 - ✓ Tier 1 schools must have their own psychologist
 - ✓ Some schools can share psychologists between two schools
 - **Still meeting intent of 1993 Charter Schools Act:**
 - Diverse learning approaches
 - Rigorous standards
 - Emphasis on helping low achieving students
- Board meetings:
 - August: only data was presented
 - September – community opinion was the focus
- Philosophy Act:
 - Charter school parents feel a greater sense of community and that their children receive a quality education

C. DAC Update: Cindy Brawley

- Question was asked about how BFA uses funding.
- District is requesting more from BFA, i.e. may increase SAC meeting time going forward to accommodate all topics.
 - October 26, 2017 – Fall Forum after next SAC meeting
- Made changes to DAC members, two more added
 - Currently 11-13 members
 - Would like charter parents to apply for positions
- BOE approved two-year waiver cycle for charter application requests
- CART review process discussed
 - Change to two-person minimum
 - Can ONLY review and NO LONGER recommend

D. Policy Review and Board Update: Steve Haas

- Document Retention Policy: No changes from SAC Committee
- Environmental Education Policy:
 - Pg. 1, Section 2, Third bullet:
 - “Environmental education is a process which develops awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the environment, positive and balanced attitudes towards the environment, and skills which will enable students to participate in assessing the state of the environment.”
 - Recommendation to change above run-on sentence by separating into two sentences. Second sentence should be added stating, “It will foster positive and balanced attitudes...”
- Financial Accounting and Reporting Policies and Procedures
 - Pg. 7, #2, under “Student Fees:” Recommend adding statement to add a collection policy similar to other sections when student fees are not paid.
 - Pg. 4, remove “of the Board” after “Finance Committee.”
 - Change bullet points, i.e. Purpose, Board App, etc. to **bold face** throughout the document.
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 - **Action:** Sarah Nisbet to ask Beth Marchisio about the following:
 - Her perspective regarding student supplies being provided rather than students purchasing their own. This seems to be favored by most.
 - Month end reports may be streamlined, so they may not be a big deal to complete by staff

E. UIP review: Aric Gomez

- Topic saved for next meeting on October 26, 2017 due to meeting time restraints.