



**Omigbade Escayg**  
*Head of School/Director*

**Mary Kate Boesch**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Linda Hatfield**  
*Assistant Principal*

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**  
**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**Members Present**

Henry A. Lambert, Chair  
Michael A. Catlyn  
Mark David  
Tony Betaudier  
Omigbade Escayg (ex-officio non-voting)

**Member Absent**

Diana Lee  
MihranKeoseian

**Others Present**

MaryKateBoesch (Asst. Principal)  
Linda Hatfield (Asst. Principal)  
Colathur Janardhanan  
Jamel Cherry  
Mehari Haile  
Felicia Alexander (Parent)  
Lisa Santos (Parent)  
Sandra Cacho (Parent)

The meeting was held on May 26, 2015 at the School. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm. The minutes for the meeting held on April 21,2015 were reviewed and adopted.

**Finance**

Janardhanan reported that we might save some money on the insurance compared to what we currently have recorded in the budget. However, certain expenses, such as the costs of the bus matrons, have not yet been included in the budget.

Janardhanan reported that the Budget Deficit is going to be larger next year than originally projected. He estimated that Bus Matrons would cost about \$75,200 and that the HRA would cost the school \$174,900. The calculation of the cost of the HRA will be different because of additional dental plan but also new co-payments and deductibles. However, he stated that based on historical experience the HRA estimate in the budget will in fact be significantly lower in reality. According to Michael's calculation \$42,000 should replace the \$174,900 in the final budget.

The window for insurance being approved is coming due. Michael, Jamel, Omi and Henry met with the insurance broker over the past week and negotiated these contracts such that overall the insurance premiums are substantially the same but the deductibles have been increased. The "Directors & Officers" insurance has been altered with an increase in the deductibles. The Board approved these revised policies, including for medical with vision, life insurance, and dental.

Deviation of actual expenditure versus budget for the current school year can be attributed to certain additional expenses such as for the Christmas Party.

Omi requested approval for expenditure on the school Carnival on June 5<sup>th</sup> at an approximate cost of \$600 and for the end of year Faculty Celebration and Leadership Retreat. The total cost of all of this is estimated at \$5,000.

Janardhanan reported that 3 iPads went missing and according to Jamel these will cost about \$1,200 to replace.

All Board Members agreed to provide financial contributions to the school.

Henry asked that we hold-off on approving next year's budget and the total budget deficit until we have some more information. The Financial Committee will meet before the next Board Meeting to examine the Budget.

Over 80 students who have enrolled for next year will attend the BCS orientation.

### **Education**

Omi, Linda, and Mary-Kate were unconvinced about the effectiveness of the Saturday Academy. They proposed that for next year this should be changed to a twice-per-week Late Day Academy. This program would run for most of the school year, 22 weeks, with one class focusing on Math and the other on ELA. They estimate that the cost of running this program will not be significantly greater than the cost of Saturday Academy primarily due to the savings on transportation costs.

Students, in grades 2 through 5 who would benefit from this program, would be identified early. The idea would be to start this at the beginning of the school year, to fill in any gaps in performance, for example how to write an essay. Teachers, parents, and students, in general, prefer that this is for an hour immediately following the school day, rather than on a Saturday, and as such it would be better attended. It would be staffed by BCS teachers.

Between 50 to 80 students would greatly benefit from these tutorials. All of these students are not failing – just trying to help fill gaps in their knowledge.

The BCS updated Discipline Policy was distributed to the Board Members prior to the Board Meeting and the Board Members have requested more time to review it and comment before approving it at the next Board Meeting.

### **Family Concerns**

Family members present did raise concerns regarding their children and requested specific information to be addressed by the Chairman. The Chairman agreed to have a private session with those families to better hear their concerns and to find resolution to the issues.

### **Head of School Report**

Two DOE officers came to BCS for the Annual Comprehensive Review and shared thoughts about the Charter Renewal. Omi reported the end-of-day feedback reflected that they were generally pleased with the school. The officers stated that most schools are probably going to be granted a 3 year renewal but they personally have very little say on decisions regarding renewals. This is really up to the State. If the State notes improved results then the school could receive a 4-5 year renewal with some conditions. If the results have flat-lined or declined then the renewal period could be under 3 years with stricter conditions. The officers did note that we are not the only school in this position and that Common Core is taking a

long time to implement effectively. Per Omi's experience, it could be up to 90 days before we receive this report.

The State is very particular about students' configurations – for example the percentage of students receiving free lunches, Students with Disabilities and with English as their second language.

Will engage an organization to guide us through the renewal process. Although Michael suggested not using JPS this time because the renewal has become much more of a State process and JPS is more local.

Based on discussions and faculty surveys, Omi reported that 4 members of the BCS faculty will not be returning next school year. The recruiting process to replace these faculty members is already underway. Two or three very strong potential candidates have already been identified.

According to Omi, we will probably need an ICT room for every grade next year.

There was even more administration than anticipated in terms of staffing the buses with Bus Matrons. Currently there are 2 bus attendants on 2 afternoon routes.

There are several planned End of Year Events. On June 5<sup>th</sup>, the school will host the Carnival. This was primarily sponsored by a school fundraiser, which raised over \$2,000. The Board approved an additional \$600 for this event. On June 12<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Family Picnic for which no additional funds are required. On June 19<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Faculty Celebration and on June 24<sup>th</sup> to June 26<sup>th</sup> there will be a Leadership Retreat; the Board needs to approve the funding for both of these events.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15pm. The next meeting will be held on June 15, 2015.