

**RHODE ISLAND MAYORAL ACADEMYSM
BLACKSTONE VALLEY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES

5:30 p.m., January 9, 2012

Blackstone Valley Prep Elementary Cafetorium

291 Broad Street, Cumberland

Meeting was called to order by Mayor McKee at 5:37PM

Present were:

Mayor Daniel J. McKee (Chair)
Stephanie Noris
Kenneth Vaudreuil
John Morton

Also present included Executive Director Jeremy Chiappetta, Secretary Daniel Waugh, Attorney Tony Afonso, members of the BVP team (Michael DeMatteo, Kate Crowe, Colleen Colarusso, Jen LoPiccolo, and Drew Madden) and members of RIMA team, David Lauck and Drew Allsopp.

1. Approval of August 15 and October 17 Meeting Minutes

**Motion to approve minutes: John Morton (seconded by Ken Vaudreuil).
The motion passed on the following vote:**

AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Noris. NAY: None.

2. Public Comment (NONE PRESENTED)

3. BVP Monthly Financial Updated presented by Jeremy Chiappetta

- Audit extension filed and approved to be on schedule for January 31, 2012.

Jeremy spoke to budget highlights as noted here:

- Revenue is on track as projected. Projected variance in the positive.
Expenditures consistent in most areas.
- Salary expenditures may need to be expended for some temporary consultants for roles that will become full-time positions later on.

- Facilities are a line item that will include purchasing permanent sites when at scale.

Question from John Morton around how many students are in need of special services. Approximately 11% of scholars while a higher percentage are receiving 40 non-IEP students receiving OT or speech services. John reiterated his question stems from receiving questions/criticism from the public and it is a misconception just how many students are served. Jeremy reiterated that we serve every child picked in the lottery.

4. Executive Director's Report

a. Status of Schools Update

- *Attendance:* BVP attendance remains incredibly strong at 97.8% (through 12/21/11), with 235 (45%) of scholars with perfect attendance. The news is not perfect; however, as 22 scholars (4.2%) are chronically absent (RIDE defines chronically absent as below 90% attendance).
- *Academics:* Jeremy shared data from Achievement Network and our ability to compare our data to other schools within the (Achievement) Network. Trimester 1 was a time of great improvement for many scholars, particularly our new Kindergarteners and 5th graders. Kindergarteners at BVP this semester grew an average of 2.5 STEP levels (nearly a grade level) from August to November, an indicator of literacy comprehension and fluidity. 5th graders who were assessed on the Fountas & Pinnell's literacy assessment also showed improvement, averaging a 1-level increase over the three month period, with some students increasing as much as four levels.
- Current BVP scholars continue to thrive as well. On the inaugural assessment for the Achievement Network program, which assesses common core and state standards against other high-performing charters and schools, BVP 2nd graders were 15% above the network average in Math and almost 20% above the average in ELA. 6th graders also ranked well above the network average in ELA and Math (10% and 12% respectively). On the second ANet assessment, 2nd graders at BVP were ranked first in the network for math. Perhaps most notably is the fast impact of our academic program as our 5th graders: their first assessment was 20% *under* the network average in September and improved dramatically, coming in just above the network average on the second assessment.
- *Family engagement:* The FLCs for the ES and MS have generated over \$2,000 of revenue for the school through various fundraisers including an "Uno's Night," "Monkey Joes Night," holiday raffle and fair, book

fair, and even a Christmas Tree / Holiday Tree sales event! The middle school 6th grade held a Winter Concert attended by 98% of the families and packed the BVP Cafetorium. The elementary school held literacy nights in December with over 100 families participating in various read-aloud and literacy games. Elementary concerts are scheduled for February 7th and 8th, and a full calendar of family events for the winter and spring includes things ranging from family dance to year-end picnic, from math night to a variety of pajama movie nights.

- Survey data correlates that this year's overall family satisfaction remains high.
- *Colleen Colarusso, Head of School for Elementary School spoke to a great start to 2012.* ES2 Kinder data looking comparable to ES1 which serves as a good benchmark in its first year. 2 fun events—family reading night and ES2's Town Hall just before break was a seasonal sing along.
- *Kate Crowe, Head of School for Middle School, spoke to college events.* 5th graders and 6th graders went to. All scholars are going on another middle school college visit to Holy Cross scheduled for February 11. First ever music event for the middle school 96% of families were in attendance.

b. Staffing Update

- BVP held a second talent showcase on Monday, 12/5, like our November event, whereby we led a professional development on “positive framing” and met with a few dozen teacher candidates. Through that event we have made several offers for part-time roles for this year and full-time roles for next year. Additionally, Mr. Chiappetta and Mrs. Barry, a first-year teacher and RIC alum, met at RIC to present about the BVP opportunity to a class dedicated to helping education majors find jobs. BVP is scheduled to present at several upcoming job fairs and is advertising on campuses and in regional publications.
- BVP is currently looking to fill an elementary special education position that was vacated in December and is currently reviewing several candidates.

c. Fund Development Update

- The initial launch of the BVP donation section of the website has resulted in direct gifts to the school of nearly \$1,000 and \$1,600 of donations to Donors Choose for teacher-requested items, including classroom library books, microphones, and PE scooters.

d. Lottery Update

- Having launched an online and paper application in early November, **BVP has over 775 applications for enrollment for 2012-2013.** Currently there are more applicants than available seats for all grades in

all schools. Detailed outreach plans are in place to make every effort to ensure that every eligible family is aware of the choice to apply to BVP. Outreach activities have or will include direct mail (targeted by demographics, provided lists from partners, specific mail-carrier routes), web advertising, print advertising, radio PSAs, open houses, community events, information sessions at area daycares, and, most importantly, word-of-mouth.

- Ken Vaudreuil asked about beginning of the year enrollment to which School leaders reported that we were fully enrolled and maintain strong numbers presently.
- John Morton inquired about what the ideal seat to application ratio is to which Jeremy replied that if we are doing a good job with outreach, we should see upwards of 1,200 applications.

e. District-charter Compact

- BVP continues to work with Central Falls, RIMA, and other charters serving the City of Central Falls to build a compact to improve the services provided for Central Falls families. A recent trip by representatives of the group to a session in Chicago was promising, and a key next step is a few members of the group traveling to New Orleans for a conference with the Center for Reinventing Public Education in January. A proposal to Gates will be submitted in the coming months, with a community kick-off event slated for February 11, 2012.
- We are beginning to explore other ways to deepen the partnership between Cumberland and BVP, beyond food services and transportation, and a meeting to explore shared services is being scheduled for later this month.

f. Facility Update

- In partnership with RIMA, BVP continues to make investments in our current sites and prepare for short and long-term solutions. At present, there are clear intentions to present to the BVP board real estate contracts for 2012-2013 and beyond.

5. Adoption of Board Calendar

- Jeremy noted the board calendar was planned with the RIDE charter renewal process in mind.
- Stephanie Noris noted one addition to the calendar to include discussion and adoption of Executive Director Performance Goals as recommended by the Compensation Committee.

Motion made to adopt a 2012 board calendar by John Morton and seconded by Ken Vaudreuil. The motion passed on the following vote:

AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Noris. NAY: None.

6. Motion to go to Executive Session pursuant to R.I. Gen. L. § 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss potential litigation and pursuant to R.I. Gen. L. § 42-46-5(a)(5) to discuss the acquisition or lease of real estate made by Ken Vaudreuil and seconded by John Morton at 6:16PM. The motion passed on the following vote:

AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Noris. NAY: None.

7. Motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:49PM by John Morton seconded by Ken Vaudreuil. The motion passed on the following vote:

AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Noris. NAY: None.

***** EXECUTIVE SESSION *****

8. Motion to seal the Minutes by Ken Vaudreuil and seconded by John Morton. The motion passed on the following vote:

AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Noris. NAY: None.

9. Motion to adjourn by Ken Vaudreuil and seconded by John Morton. Meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM. The motion passed on the following vote:

AYE: McKee, Vaudreuil, Morton, Noris. NAY: None.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen LoPiccolo

Assistant Secretary