

**Rhode Island Mayoral AcademiesSM
Blackstone Valley
Board of Directors Meeting**

**Monday, June 18, 2012
5:30PM**

291 Broad Street Cafetorium

Board Members Present:
Chairman Dan McKee
Joe Almond
Stephanie Noris
Ken Vaudreuil

Also present were Executive Director Jeremy Chiappetta, BVP Team Members Jen LoPiccolo, Lindsey Tavares, Colleen Colarusso; and RIMA Team Members Mike Magee, Drew Allsopp, Christine Lopes, and David Lauck.

Meeting Called to order at 5:30 PM by Mr. Dan McKee

1. Motion to approve May 21st board minutes was made by Ken Vaudreuil and seconded by Stephanie Noris. The motion passed on the following vote: AYE: McKee, Almond, Noris, Vaudreuil. NAY: None.

2. Financial Update presented by Jeremy Chiappetta projected surplus. He shared that the surplus will help to offset additional facilities costs than what were anticipated as well as potential staffing supports that may need to be hired now that we are learning of some needs of students enrolling next year.

3. Public Comment –No Comment Offered

4. Vote to Approve Transportation Contract (that exceeds the \$100,000 threshold as set by interim policies)

Jeremy shared with the board that the contract before them was a 1 year term of contract for the 2012-13 school year only with Durham School Services Transportation. The amount budgeted in the approved budget is \$546,000.

Motion to approve transportation contract made by Joe Almond and seconded by Stephanie Noris. The motion passed on the following vote: AYE: McKee, Almond, Noris, Vaudreuil. NAY: None.

5. ED Report

Attendance Update (as of today):

Number of School Days: 180

Number of Scholars Currently Enrolled: 519

Elementary 1: 240
Elementary 2: 80
Middle School: 199

Attendance

Network-wide Attendance Average: 97.1%

Elementary 1: 97.0%
Elementary 2: 96.6%
Middle School: 97.5%

Number of students with perfect attendance: 75 scholars (14.5%)

Chronic Absence

Network-wide Chronic Absence (%): 2.9%

Elementary 1: 1.7% (12)
Elementary School 2: 6.3% (5)
Middle School: <1% (4)

Number of Scholars with >17 absences: 18

Chronic Absence is defined by RIDE as the number of students who have been absent 10% or more of days enrolled; at 180 school days, that is anyone with more than 17 absences

Schools Report:

With eight days of school remaining, all schools are focused on finishing the year strong. Several college field lessons are planned, including trips to Hampshire College, Regis College, Boston University, Harvard University, and Salve Regina University.

Lindsey Tavares also shared that ES1 is gearing up for a community clean-up that will include pieces of the Blackstone Valley Bike Path.

Colleen Colarusso shared that she is excited to be finishing up the year on such a positive note. She's excited to take all of her Kindergarten scholars on a college visit to her alma mater, Regis College.

School Data Report:

Elementary

RIDE requires all elementary schools that do not have a NECAP testing grade (3rd) to administer the DRA2 to their highest-grade level served. For BVP Elementary School 1, that is 2nd grade. For BVP Elementary School 2, that is Kindergarten.

- Elementary School 1's results for 2nd grade are 76/80 met standard (94%) and 21% are a full grade level ahead

- Elementary School 2's results for K are 80/80 met standard (100%) and 22% are a full grade level ahead.

These results are consistent with other BVP administered assessments including Achievement Network, STEP assessments, and internally created assessments.

Middle

BVP administers the F&P literacy assessment to all 5th and 6th grade scholars several times per year. F&P assessments have demonstrated continued growth of scholars. Please note that F&P assessments have been positively correlated (0.67) to historical BVP NECAP results.

5th Grade	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Significantly Behind	15.2%	7.1%	2.1%	2.1%
Behind	35.4%	24.2%	20.0%	20.0%
Grade Level	37.4%	47.5%	40.0%	52.6%
Above Grade	12.1%	21.2%	40.0%	26.3%

6th Grade	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4
Significantly Behind	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.0%
Behind	37.9%	26.2%	22.3%	16.5%
Grade Level	35.0%	54.4%	75.7%	82.5%
Above Grade	25.2%	17.5%	N/A	N/A

Staffing Update

BVP is excited to announce that David Lauck, the CFO of RIMA, will join BVP as the founding Finance Director. Critical elements of David's 100 Day Plan include the hiring of an internal accountant/controller, review of internal controls and financial policies, and successfully manage the 2011-2012 Audit. For the time being, David will remain as the RIMA CFO and support both organizations.

BVP has nearly completed its hiring plan for 2012-2013, with a handful of vacancies to fill: Network Admin/Logistics, Social Worker/Counselor, Music (MS), 1:1 MS, 1:1 ES (CNA), Nurse Teacher, Accountant/Controller.

In addition, BVP continuously works to meet and vet high quality highly talented individuals that may be interested in subbing, consulting, or in case of unexpected staffing changes.

2012 Enrollment

BVP is planning to enroll 81 per grade per school for grades K-3 and 5. BVP will maintain current enrollment levels for grades 6 and 7.

Before going to the waiting list, BVP is surveying families with our annual *Intent to Return* survey to better understand enrollment for next year. Survey results thus far are positive, we hope to have a full set of returns by the end of this week.

	Yes, with no reservations	Yes, with some reservations	Not returning	No response yet
ES1	84.6%	4.6%	0.0%	10.4%
ES2	95.1%	1.2%	0.0%	3.7%
MS	73.5%	10.0%	2.5%	12.5%

BVP is working to analyze reservations in an effort to improve our program. Please also note that half of those who have indicated that they not returning are moving out of state.

District-charter Compact

Several BVP teachers are involved in the district-charter compact teacher collaboration efforts – an initiative to have several district and charter teachers working together on key tasks. BVP teachers are engaged on several initiatives including co-teaching, special education, and elementary literacy Common Core alignment work.

Facility Updates

1135 Roosevelt Ave.: BVP is working with Civic Builders and Arrow Street (architects) to finalize the permanent facility for BVP MS1. This project, a “premiere” effort, will be a new flagship for our work, located on the S. Attleboro line of Pawtucket. A lease is being presented to the board for review.

291 Broad St.: The BVP expansion to better serve special education students at ES1 is under way and on-track to be completed by early August.

7 Fatima Dr.: BVP is making small adjustments and has moved forward with a successful bidder for a playspace.

Fairlawn Ave.: BVP has signed the lease with the Town of Lincoln and has identified the firms that will provide services this summer to prepare the building for school by August 6. A comprehensive list of services is available, and includes IT upgrades, kitchen equipment, carpet removal, tile installation, electrical upgrades, and air circulation / conditioning.

Other

Audit: BVP hosted West Ed, a national educational consulting agency that is contracted with the US Department of Education to audit our ES2 and MS CSP grants. The review was very positively received.

PR Feature: BVP was featured by The Century Foundation and EdWeek as one of a handful of charter schools around the country that are delivering a highly successful

educational program in a diverse school setting. Copies of the report have been emailed to the board and is available on our website: www.blackstonevalleyprep.org

Grant Award: Bristol Community Savings Bank has award BVP with a \$10,000 grant to support our elementary music program. Specifically, the grant will be used to purchase 80 violins and related materials for use with our scholars!

Teacher Quality: BVP has initiated a “teacher retention committee” to help the leadership team address key strategic challenges relating to finding and keeping the very best teachers. Recommendations are being reviewed, but some highlights from the committees work have led to the following:

- Publishing a set of network-wide and school-based calendars that more clearly define, very early, expectations for the work-year and any required and most optional activities outside of our regular day
- Creating a policy to govern and define part-time opportunities
- Hiring, at a minimum, one full-time elementary and one full-time middle level "building" substitute, (and reviewing possibility of an on-call substitute pool)
- Creating a differentiated August and year-long PD calendar that addresses needs of all teachers ranging from TLAC taxonomy work to differentiation, from RTI/sped/ELLs to organizational systems
- Reviewing policies and expectations relating to Opportunity Days
- Working to create building schedules that offer balance for scholars (and staff)
- Matching of experienced teachers and new hires with a "buddy"

A question was posed by Dan McKee around whether attendance can be broken down by community and whether optional presentations to Town Councils could be something looked at for late Summer/early Fall.

6. Discussion: Highbar Board Meeting Guide and Materials (www.reachthehighbar.com)

Details of discussion included that Highbar is a tool that 50 charter boards currently use. It is web-based. Stephanie Noris spoke to the time she spent today playing around with the demo and how exciting it would be to consider a trial period. It is one spot to access all things board related. Some questions posed about the tools included:

1. Does it calendar sync?
2. How can these tools support goal setting? What would the expectations be for the board here?
3. Can we set up trial period for 2 weeks that would allow the board to do a mock meeting?
4. If we decide to go with the highest of the 3 levels (most expensive), can we pair it back if we don't use it to its full capacity?

Dan McKee asked about the experience and background of Highbar to which Jeremy reiterated their focus is charter schools, state departments and charter authorizers. Christine Lopes reiterated that these tools are really helpful in terms of board roles.

Stephanie asked whether we could get references to which Jeremy reiterated that he has asked both Alma Del Mar and KIPP Lynn.

7. Motion to move into Executive Session for acquisition or lease of real estate under R.I. Gen. L. § 42-46-5(a)(5), pertaining to Roosevelt property was made by Ken Vaudreuil seconded by Stephanie Noris. **The motion passed on the following vote: AYE: McKee, Almond, Noris, Vaudreuil. NAY: None.**

*** EXECUTIVE SESSION ***

Ken Vaudreuil made a motion to come out of Executive Session which was seconded by Stephanie Noris.

The motion passed on the following vote: AYE: McKee, Almond, Noris, Vaudreuil. NAY: None.

Dan McKee reported out in public meeting that while in Executive Session, the board unanimously approved a resolution with respect to the execution and delivery of a lease agreement with Civic RI Roosevelt Ave. Charter Corp.

Stephanie Noris made a motion to seal the minutes which was seconded by Ken Vaudreuil. **The motion passed on the following vote: AYE: McKee, Almond, Noris, Vaudreuil. NAY: None.**

8. Adjournment

Ken Vaudreuil made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Joe Almond. **The motion passed on the following vote: AYE: McKee, Almond, Noris, Vaudreuil. NAY: None.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jen LoPiccolo
Assistant Secretary