

Minutes

Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy

Board Meeting

Thursday Feb 13, 2014 @ 5:00 PM at 560 Mineral Spring Pawtucket, RI

Board Members Present

D. McKee, J. Almond, J. Morton, J. Waters, M. Magee

Board Members Absent

J. Casimiro, J. Diossa, S. Noris

Guests Present

D. Lauck, J. Chiappetta, J. LoPiccolo (remote), L. McEwen (remote), Michael DeMatteo, S. Cuello

I. Opening Items

Call the Meeting to Order

D. McKee called a meeting of the board of trustees of Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy to order on Thursday Feb 13, 2014 @ 5:08 PM at 560 Mineral Spring Pawtucket, RI.

Approve Minutes

II. Consent Agenda

Executive Director Report

Jeremy Chiappetta stated that the Necap results were thrilling. It is very exciting to see how far we have come. He also stated that BVP has continued engagement on the National level. BVP have two staff members presenting at the National Conference. BVP also had two parents and one staff member go to Atlanta for a parent advocacy training called Raise the Bar. This was intensive training for parents on how to advocate for their kids and their schools. BVP is also piloting a TLC (Tender Loving Care) room which is a high need special ed room. We are hoping to serve these kids the right way. Jeremy said he will have Susan join our next meeting and provide a presentation for the Board. David Lauck explained how this is classroom is not a permanent placement for kids; this is a transition room. Mayor Magee suggested the school speak to Dr. Pedro who works with special needs kids.

Finance Director Report

David stated that financially we are tracking towards revenue that should be slightly ahead of what we originally budgeted. Cash position as of December 31st was roughly 3.5 million which is worth a little more than three months of expenses. As we have wrapped up financial and UCOA audits this is the completion of our contract with Braver PC. I believe it is best practice for us to request proposals and to put this out to bid. We have also received a proposal for banking services from Washington Trust and we also think it would be best practice to do the same here and accept bids for banking services as well. We will bring back proposals and recommendation to the Board.

J. Almond made a motion to approve both Executive Report and Finance Report in the Consent Agenda.

J. Morton seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. AYE: Almond, Morton, Waters, Magee, Mckee, Diossa
NAY: None.

III. School Update

High School Design

Jeremy stated we continue to design and prepare for the high school. Despite major anxiety from the parents in regards to our facility of the 88 8th graders we have two that have said they will be attending another school.

Twenty who are saying they might return to BVP. We have a few that have not replied to the survey but we have 55 scholars that they will be returning to BVP for the high school. Johnathon (high school designer) has already hired two teachers. Jen and Hannah have also done a great job with the talent flow. We continue to visit schools and work on the curriculum side. BVP High School is on a great track. BVP target is to be 90% hired by April break. Our designs for the high school will vary by content area. BVP has also engaged with Highlander and we will get 90 hours of consulting services to help us get some answers for some of these questions. Mckee stated there is a potential partnership with RI Manufacturers Association.

Review of Academic Results

Jeremy stated that the headline on the projo blog right now is "Blackstone Valley 8th graders do well in Math". It takes two lines but we are happy that it is there. There is also an attachment in the Executive Report for everyone to review regarding our academic results.

IV. Board Correspondence

Technology Grant

Jeremy Chiappetta stated that through the wireless classroom initiative we put forward a grant proposal that has been accepted approved by the state. We need to show evidence that we have provided the board with information about this and they have reviewed this so we can move forward. Mike DeMatteo has served on a committee designing this whole process. David Lauck explained that BVP has been awarded around \$53K to provide the schools with wireless classrooms in our three existing buildings. We need this board approval to enter in to contract with the service provider that was selected. Mike went out to three different vendors to get proposals and received two back. This vendor (APEX) has giving us the best price and proposal.

J. Almond made a motion to Approve school to proceed with contract for wireless classrooms.

M. Magee seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. AYE: Almond, Morton, Waters, Magee, Mckee, Diossa
NAY: None.

Request to RIDE

David Lauck gave an update to the board. "As you recall we had a condition placed on our charter renewal this summer surrounding our performance around standard three of the renewal rubric. Which is around our financial ratios they were most concerned about whether or not we were maintaining three months worth of cash. BVP staff was to meet with RIDE staff a couple of times this year to present progress against that standard and then be able to have this condition removed. Nov. 6th was the first meeting. The second meeting was scheduled for today but it was postponed to the 27th. Assuming that this meeting goes favorable we will like to submit a letter on behalf of the board to have this condition removed. Today is just a more of an informative nature until after the next RIDE meeting. Today's report is just for your information until after the RIDE meeting.

J. Morton made a motion to review the letter to submit to RIDE and to postpone consideration on to the next meeting.

M. Magee seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. AYE: Almond, Morton, Waters, Magee, Mckee, Diossa
NAY: None.

Executive Director Contract

Jeremy Chiappetta wanted to remind the board that his current contract has him serving through June 30th of this year. He would love to continue in this capacity. The process was started in the fall with board members. Board Chair will meet with board members to check on status.

V. Fundraising

Fund Development Update

Jeremy stated that in his ED report their is a lot of exciting news about proposals we are sending out. Let's keep our fingers crossed that this will work out. Bristol County Bank has also funded us for \$25K over the next two years. (\$12.5K each year) Also on March 19th we will be having an Art event. Please help us host this event and give the \$250 or get 5 people to come to this event. Jen Lopiccolo will be reaching out to the board.

VI. Public Comment

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

VII. Go Into Executive Session

To go into Executive Session

M. Magee made a motion to go into executive session Acquisition or lease of real estate – R.I. Gen. L. § 42-46-5(a)(5).

J. Morton seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. AYE: Almond, Morton, Waters, Magee, Mckee, Diossa
NAY: None.

VIII. Executive Session

Acquisition or lease of real estate – R.I. Gen. L. § 42-46-5(a)(5)

Seal Minutes

J. Almond made a motion to Seal the minutes of executive session.

J. Morton seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. AYE: Almond, Morton, Waters, Magee, Mckee, Diossa
NAY: None.

Executive Session

J. Almond made a motion to exit executive session.

J. Morton seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. AYE: Almond, Morton, Waters, Magee, Mckee, Diossa
NAY: None.

IX. Closing Items

Adjourn Meeting

J. Almond made a motion to adjourn meeting.

J. Morton seconded the motion.

The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 06:41 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
S. Cuello