

Minutes – For BCCS Board of Directors Meeting, November 15, 2023, held virtually via Zoom

Meeting called to order at 5:35 pm by Annie Scott

In Attendance:

Board: Olivia DeGennaro, Subira Gordon, Jonathan Gotterer, Ana Rosa, Annie Scott, Carrie Skaggs, Lauren Stumpf, Don Thompson

Staff: Nancy Landona, Dr. Barbara Ruggiero

Guest: Laura Callachan (CTCSA), Ruben Felipe (CTCSA)

Absent: Anthony Gay, Dr. Joe Johnson, Jeanine Pocoski(EX), Maria Vega

Public comments: None at this time.

Ruben Felipe, Executive Director of CT Charter Schools Association introduced himself and gave an overview of what they do at CTCSA

- CTCSA provides advocacy (legislative) and school support throughout the state
- Charter funding per pupil has shifted from a static per pupil to a per pupil plus weighted funding
- Still lobbying for facilities funding for charter schools
 - For 2024 CTCSA is proposing a “charter facilities per pupil”, which would be additional funding restricted to facilities for charter schools. Initial ask of \$1000 per student
- Priority of Growth: additional schools, growth of existing schools such as seat growth
- The process to request additional seats at state level is very vague and inconsistent

Laura Callachan:

- Building school support options for charters
- Updating 2023-2024 Board training material and will send resource guide
- Option to discuss what is most appropriate and beneficial for BCCS board
- Nov 30 @ 6 pm-7 pm virtual zoom workshop regarding advocacy 101

Consent items:

- Financials from September 2023 were distributed via email
- Minutes from the October 18, 2023, meeting were distributed via email

Motion to approve the consent items – Don Thompson; 2nd – Ana Rosa.

Motion carries with 7 votes in Favor, 0 votes Against, 0 votes Abstain. Approved

Director’s Report:

- A building substitute has been hired and there’s a candidate for music class.
 - The Waterbury Symphony is interested in collaborating by offering support and other tools for the music teacher and exposure to BCCS students. There is the possibility of a music afterschool program
- Received a grant from the Leavenworth Foundation that will allow the installation of smart board projectors in classrooms. This grant provides the potential to also increase engagement with students in the classroom

- Literacy night was a success. Teachers from grades K – 3 participated by setting tables to showcase what reading looks like in their classrooms. Displayed student projects and also provided take-home strategies for families
- A book fair was held and BCCS received scholastics credit for teachers which has helped in building a checkout library. As soon as the new books get categorized we can start using the checkout library
- First term ends on Dec. 1st. ad parent/teacher conferences will be held on December 11th
- There is a fully staffed clinic at the school
- Encountered some broken pipes due to old age and corrosion. A second pipe also had to get replaced. This has caused unexpected expenses

Old Business:

Exploring potential loan options due to the impact of the City of Waterbury Board of Education not paying special education costs incurred last academic year and portions of years prior.

Lauren recommends using our own money from the Webster investment account and then replenishing the funds.

Uncertain of when the City of Waterbury BOE will even send a payment and/or the amount of what the payment will be.

Welcomed new board member:

- Subira Gordon, resides in Naugatuck. Lived in Waterbury for 13 years. Worked at the legislature and former ED at CONNCAN. Believes in School choice. Runs a charter collaborative in Nashville TN. Loves what's happening at BCCS.

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Thompson; 2nd – Olivia DeGennaro.

Meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by: Ana Rosa