

Bridgewater Academy Charter School Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 10 April 2024

Location: Virtual & Bridgewater Academy

Time: Meeting convened at 5:30 pm.

Attendees:

- Sherry Pinto
 - Alex Martinez
 - Nicole McDowell
 - Tara McNeil
 - Daryl Rupnick
 - Nicole Summers
 - Anne Toler
 - Ashleigh Wade
 - Marissa Levisen
 - Judy Edwards
 - Heather Kirby
 - Brandy Johnson
 - Kiki Eaddy
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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Roxanne Craft.

- Invocation
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Reading of BWA's Vision Statement

2. Public Comments:

Moved to public comment at 5:30 by Roxanne Craft.

Nicole McDowell states no public comment

Ms. Toler states no public comment.

Mrs. McNeil states no public comment.

Mr. Rupnick states no public comment.

Mrs. Summers states no public comment.

3. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Judy Edwards. Brandy Johnson seconds.

- **Vote:** Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

Motion by Judy Edwards, seconded by Kiki Eaddy, to approve the minutes from the March 2025 meeting.

5. Reports

- **Financial Report:**
 - Heather Kirby presenting. Days cash on hand, 83. 12 month average, 54. Salaries & benefits as % of total revenue 61%. Operating cash \$285,736.67 Designated cash \$187,219.xx
 - Total cash equivalents \$427,955.82
 - Total Assets \$573,963.44
 - P&L Statement
 - 67% of federal revenue left to receive.
 - Elementary program is at -20%
 - Other areas in the negative: Psychological service, Information services, and Pupil Activity
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6. Principal's Report:

- **Enrollment:**
 - **141 (33 New enrollments so far)**
 - Focused on filling non-kindergarten slots
 - Given 23 tours since March
 - Goal: to fill slots in upcoming 5th, 6th, and 7th grades
 - Return on investment already exceeded
 - **Senator Hembree Visit**
 - Positive visit, students had great questions. He enjoyed hearing from parent-board members.
 - Kevin Mason, executive direction of the charter school alliance, attended with him.

- Hearing students reiterating school board goals (“we matter as individuals” “our education matters”)
- **Spring Fling**
 - After costs we brought in \$300
 - Today we received the Kona ice sales: \$121
 - Possibility for getting other vendors to come in and donate 20% of their wares
- **P.R. Campaign Updates**
 - Trending in right way
 - Existing funding will sustain us from August to September. We won’t see the fruits of increased attendance until January. Focus on trending up.
- **Cafeteria Audit**
 - Surprise cafeteria audits. Aced both of them.
 - Cookout Day for Baseball Opening sold a large number of hot meals
 - Big jump in SNAP reimbursements
- **Summer Expenses**
 - Sprinkler/Fire System Repair: \$4,500
 - One missed in dry goods closet in cafeteria
 - IREADY/INWEA: \$3,500
 - New product that gives teacher more diagnostic details
 - If we stick with MAP (existing service) we will have to renew the contract
 - Flooring: \$29,000
 - Covers hallways & PE Room
 - A couple weeks operation
 - Not classrooms
 - Ashleigh asked about YMCA summer program
 - If we move forward with the floors we won’t be able to do the floors so it’s looking less likely
 - Roxanne comments that it might be a long-term relationship but our focus for now needs to be on maintenance items
 - Chromebook Replacements: \$12,000
 - If we do a full sweep, this is the total cost of changing over the chromebooks
 - We have chromebooks with missing keys and cracked screens
 - Roxanne requests a revisiting of funding this through HCS
 - Dr. Pinto states that because CSI money is gone, we don’t have easy access to HCS’s computer program. If they can’t fix computers, they send them away. The problem is when the computers go away, the Google license goes away with them. If we can get new chromebooks, the Google licenses will last longer.
 - Ms. Toler states that the Google licenses allow teachers to be the administrator of their emails. Allows teachers to block websites as

a school. It allows teachers and administration to act as guardians over what students can access.

- Dr. Pinto states that it also allows teachers to see what the students do, if they're working.
- 30 Google Licenses is \$1,500. Losing a google license is a large expense.
- The average Chromebook should last 5 years. Students are tough on the computers.
- Roxanne Craft asks about potentially negotiating the price for ChromeBooks
- \$12,000 would get us 150 refurbished ChromeBooks at about \$60—\$80 a piece
- If we do not use federal funding, we won't have to go through repairing them through the school district and potentially losing them.
- Roxanne Craft asks what would be a good starting point for the upcoming year
- Dr. Pinto states she'd love to have 20 to start with to begin cycling through.
- Mr. Rupnik says he will reach out and ask if we get a bigger discount with a larger order, but believes \$50—\$60 per ChromeBook is a good day
- Kiki Eaddy and Roxanne Craft asks about the warranty
- Mr. Rupnik states he believes the warranty is 90 days
- Mr. McDowell asks if there's anything that can be done to the district to recover the computers.
- Dr. Pinto states we cannot.
- Marissa Levisen and Ashleigh Wade discuss the options of creating a relationship with a computer repair shop.
- Paving/Dumpster: \$46,000
 - The teacher parking lot is in disrepair.
 - The bigger issue is the dumpster. Whoever did that didn't put that dumpster on a cement slab. It's sinking.
 - Mr. McDowell suggests crush and run (concrete) as an affordable option
 - Roxanne Craft asks how much of the paving/dumpster piece was out of the \$46,000
 - Dr. Pinto replies that she will revisit that and get the line item number.
 - Mr. McDowell states the garbage company will stop servicing if it's too difficult to access due to lack of cement slab
 - States for \$400 we could get crush and run for that area
- Science Digital Materials: \$5,000

- The teachers do not like the current science curriculum. It's cumbersome and laborious. For the youngers students it's not engage. Teachers have requested a new program.
 - We adopted the current program for 6 years. We still have 3 year remaining on this contract.
 - Science would have to come out of our funds if we wanted to provide the teachers with something better.
 - This would cover the teacher components for Twig.
 - Amplify positive: we receive quality science kits.
 - Ms. Toler asks have we put out a call to families to see if anyone has a related skillset to help with these projects.
 - **Total: \$99,000**
 - **One Item for Executive Session**
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7. Old Business

- **Update on Marketing, covered**
- **Board Member**
 - Ms. Judy not returning next year
 - Gratitude for all her years of service
 - Elections (covered in new business)
- **Update Regarding PE & Health (90 minutes weekly requirement)**
 - Dr. Pinto states this will be updated the second week of June
- **Simply Safe**
 - Roxanne Craft states she spoke with Strand Security.
 - They do not believe every staff person needs a panic button. Believes they should be in each classroom and strategic locations. Strand Security will send over more information.
 - They did LowCounty Prep in Pawleys Island
 - Hangout in Myrtle Beach

7. New Business

- **Board Elections**
 - Hoping for someone who has SC Education and administrative experience
 - Judy Edwards states she's happy to provide input and support ongoing
- **Budget Committee**
 - Work in progress
- **Senator Visit**
 - Already discussed in principal's report
 - Roxanne Craft states that for being such a small school, it felt like our voices really mattered
 - Dr. Pinto states that Kevin provided feedback that he found the visit to be very valuable
- **Clothing Exchange Day**
 - Ashleigh Wade states parents approached her and asked about possibility of a clothing exchange day

- Ms. Toler states possibility of having items brought in prior to exchange day to confirm clothing is of quality
- Roxanne Craft suggests possibility of having middle schoolers involved with sorting
- Kiki Eaddy suggests options for families in need
- Anne Toler suggests leftovers can be handed out
- Ashleigh Wade suggests leftovers could also go into The Eagle's Nest
- Roxanne Crafts suggests having a set day for this.
- Dr. Pinto states we could do this in August to gear up for the new school year
- Anne Toler suggests announcing it for the last week of school as a drop off
- Alex Martinez will create a flyer

8. Approval to Move to Executive Session

Motion by Judy Edwards, seconded by Kiki Eaddy, to move into executive session at 6:37pm

8. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Judy Edwards, seconded by Brandy Johnson.

- **Vote:** Passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07pm.

Minutes submitted by: Ashleigh Wade, Secretary

Date of submission: 10 April 2025