



# Belmont Charter Network

A FAMILY  
OF SCHOOLS

## Belmont Charter Board Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2019

12:00PM

1301 Belmont Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19104

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the Belmont Charter Board of Trustees took place in joint session with Inquiry Charter School Board of Trustees and the Community Education Alliance of West Philadelphia Board of Trustees. The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm.

**Belmont Charter School Board Members Present:** Michael Karp, Leslie Convey, Dominique Reiff and Steve Parico.

**Board Members Absent:** Brandon Slay, Lisa Kaminsky, and Alice Gibbs.

**Staff Present:** Jennifer Faustman, Chris Hanlon, Jared Ware, Troy Hardy, Claire Cohen, and Shante Davis.

M. Karp began the meeting call for public comment. No public comments were offered.

M. Karp then asked if there were any questions regarding the Board packets presented which included October 2018 Board minutes. There were no questions.

**Resolutions #1.** Resolved that the board reviewed and approved the Belmont Charter October 2018 minutes as written. Michael Karp moved to affirm; Steve Parico seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**Chairman Report:**

M. Karp reported that there is space in West Philadelphia that can accommodate schools. He also stated that there had been negotiations regarding the charter. Regarding the charter, there was progress made in December, and we are optimistic about getting the charter signed in the next two months.

**CEO Report:**

J. Faustman reported the current enrollment is at 828 students. Belmont has significantly reduced from the budgeted number of students presented in June. The K class is small this year (86 students) and the school lost a significant number of students in grades 2 & 7. Enrollment trends are showing that the school will not increase in size to reach its cap based on feeding the neighborhood trends. Discussions with the District about expanding our enrollment outside of the catchment area are underway to allow for the school to fill to cap.

It was also reported that SPR scores were released from the School District. Belmont showed significant growth with an overall score of 43 (4 points off from reaching the Reinforce Category) and back to the score the school had prior to the common core standards change. It was given a ranking of a model school in early literacy for the District.

An overview of the recent December benchmarks is being included in the board package. We implemented a new early literacy benchmark test (F &P) and this is our first set of data from that tool.

In summary, growth at BCS looks strong in Math but shows a slight decline in ELA in PSSA tested grades. F & P scores are not meeting goals set in September but those goals were based on previous DRA data. We will wait until March data to evaluate growth and whether we should also be having students take the DRA also.

Annual staff climate survey results were taken in November and overall they look very strong with an overall rating of 4+ (out of 5) or higher across all schools. This is a strong indication that morale is positive. Belmont Elementary (1-5) was not as strong with most ratings in the 3's. We attribute most of this to a new leadership team as a result of moving the previous leader to the middle school. Action plans are being implemented and we will be taking another pulse survey in mid-February.

YTD Student Climate Data is attached.

J. Faustman also shared benchmark scores for Belmont Charter School.

**Facilities**

Belmont Charter is looking into modular spaces to house our growing high school for 2019-2020. Gym space is also imperative as our athletic program expands.

We put in a request with the District to redo the playground at Belmont Elementary but have not received word, this will be our 3rd proposal.

Window proposals are being reviewed for BACS.

### **Programs/Partnerships**

No updates at this time.

### **Human Resources**

We have terminated the Special Education Coordinator at Belmont Charter School. There is also an opening for a Behavior Support Office at Belmont Charter Elementary School.

### **Operations and Finance Report:**

The finance committee reported met prior to the meeting.

The board discussed the Hazard Plan; we are proactive about addressing any issues in our building. We have a plan in place to address any hazardous conditions or materials.

J. Ware reported fund balances.

### **Action Items:**

J. Faustman proposed to set a standard 3% raise for teacher contracts to secure early offers. The board authorized approval for standard raises for the year 2019-2020. M. Karp moved to affirm; the motion was seconded by L. Convey. The vote was unanimous.

The 2018-2019 Wellness Policy was reviewed.

Resolutions #2. Resolved that the board reviewed and approved the Wellness policy. M. Karp moved to affirm: the motion was seconded by Steve Parico. The vote was unanimous.

The Homeless Student Policy was reviewed.

Resolution #3. Resolved that the board reviewed and approved the Homeless policy. M. Karp moved to affirm; the motion was seconded by Steve Parico. The vote was unanimous.

State Ethics Commission Forms were handed out.

M. Karp motioned to adjourn the meeting. L. Convey seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.