



## **Bentley Academy Innovation Planning Committee meeting**

### **Minutes of the IPC Meeting Wednesday, 12/18/2019, 4:30 pm. In the School Library**

**Members in Attendance:** Sean McCarthy, Interim Principal, Jenna Cripps (Lead Applicant), Laura Towey (Teacher), Jennifer Lima (Teacher), Elizabeth Ryan (Para), Amanda Campbell (School Committee representative), Alyce Davis (Community Member)

**Members Absent:** Rebecca Westlake (Superintendent's Designee); Kelly Alvarez (Parent), Kelly Feurt (Teacher), Susan Low (Parent)

**Others Present:** Jill Conrad (Superintendent's designated facilitator), Nicholas DiPardo, AFT Representative

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 pm. Ms. Conrad reviewed the agenda with the group. The IPC reviewed the draft minutes and proposed some edits to the 11/21 minutes. They unanimously approved the amended 11/21/19 minutes along with the minutes from 12/10/19.

Ms. Conrad provided an overview of the Open Meeting Law complaint process. As a public body, the Innovation Planning Committee is not a subcommittee of the Bentley Board of Trustees, but rather a subcommittee of the Salem School Committee. The IPC voted to have the School Committee's attorney, Ms. Colby Brunt, Esq. review the OML complaint and craft a response. The draft response will be brought to the IPC at their next meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Conrad also proposed that in light of the fact that neither of the two parents on the IPC could be present for tonight's meeting, even if the innovation plan were ready for a vote, it should be tabled until at least one, if not all of the parents could attend. The group agreed to this.

Ms. Conrad also shared that the teachers had submitted a set of language revisions and proposals to the latest draft of the innovation plan earlier that afternoon. They had not yet been shared with the full group. Nick DiPardo, representative from the AFT was present to review the proposed language changes with the group. Ms. Conrad explained that many of the proposals would require further discussion with the Superintendent and other district representatives, but that for purposes of tonight, the group would hear the proposals to understand the issues, ask clarifying questions, etc. and then she would work to address them within the next draft.

Mr. DiPardo walked the group through the proposals which included some revisions to the autonomies to clarify that there would not be an extended year for the school, to assert that the teachers wanted to "Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c.30A § 18-25 and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033."

have the school calendar align with the district calendar, to propose that the staff be able to vote on any proposed changes to unique roles and positions that a new principal might propose, to clarify the length of day for teachers, to outline the membership of the Bentley Academy Leadership Team, and other minor edits and revisions.

The IPC members listened to the proposals, asked questions, and discussed some of their responses. Ms. Conrad recorded notes from this discussion and re-stated that these would need to be discussed with the Superintendent. The group agreed to hold further discussion until the next meeting where the proposals along with the district's responses could be considered more fully. Individual members offered to draft some proposed language reflecting some of the ideas discussed and to send that to Ms. Conrad to incorporate into the next draft.

During the meeting, Ms. Alvarez, who had been in the building for a different purpose, but unable to attend the meeting, entered the room and expressed her disappointment that the group went ahead with having an IPC meeting at a time when both parent representatives were unable to attend. Ms. Conrad acknowledged her concern and agreed to follow up with both parents individually to update them on the discussion. Ms. Conrad also assured Ms. Alvarez that the group had already decided not to move forward with a vote until at least one of the parents, if not both, could be in attendance. She further offered to formally note Ms. Alvarez' concern in the meeting minutes.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm.