



## **Bentley Academy Innovation Planning Committee Meeting**

Bentley Academy Charter School  
25 Memorial Drive, Salem, MA

### **Minutes of the IPC Meeting Tuesday, 10/29/2019, 5:30 pm. In the School Library**

**Members in Attendance:** Jenna Cripps (Lead Applicant), Sean McCarthy (Principal), Rebecca Westlake (Superintendent's designee), Amanda Campbell (School Committee representative), Kelly Alvarez (Parent), Kelly Feurt (Teacher), Laura Towey (Teacher), Jennifer Lima (Teacher), Elizabeth Ryan (Para), Susan Low (Parent), and Alyce Davis (Community Member).

**Members Absent:** None

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

#### **Meeting Minutes:**

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. At the start of the meeting, Ms. Feurt proposed that the group focus on the issue of whether or not the school would have a governing board as this seemed to be an important element to determine first, before they would be able to focus on the other elements. She shared a proposal from the teachers and summarized the teachers' and paraprofessionals' concerns and shared a proposed structure for the governing board. The group discussed and deliberated this proposal and ultimately decided to frame what had been referred to as a "governing board" instead as an "advisory board" as they wished for this group to serve in an advisory role to the school principal on the oversight and general operation of the school, but that governance should, in fact, ultimately rest with the Salem School Committee. In addition, the members agreed that the Superintendent should retain the authority to hire and evaluate the school principal, not the governing board.

Ms. Conrad, who is the Superintendent's designated facilitator of the group, took notes and agreed to work on possible draft language for the governing board section of the innovation plan and to share that out to the members for review.

Additional concerns about some of the existing structures at the Bentley school that teachers would like to see changed were shared. IPC members discussed those items, but did not come to agreement. One of the items discussed concerned the length of the school day at Bentley. The group agreed to seek feedback from existing Bentley staff regarding the elements of the school day that are most important to keep for the future. The group also agreed to review the starter draft more closely and submit any recommended revisions to Ms. Conrad via email or by the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.