

Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School

21 Notre Dame Ave
Cambridge, MA 02140



A STEM School

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

2020-2021 Annual Report

July 31, 2021

Welcoming All Children - Challenging Every Learner - Celebrating Students' Success

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INTRODUCTION TO BENJAMIN BANNEKER CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL

<i>Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School</i>			
Type of Charter	Commonwealth	Location of School	Cambridge
Regional or Non-Regional	Non-Regional	Chartered Districts in Region	N/A
Year Opened	1996	Year(s) the Charter was Renewed	2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021
Maximum Enrollment	350	Enrollment as of 5/18/21	338
Chartered Grade Span	K1-6	Current Grade Span	K1-6
Number of Instructional Days per School Year (as stated in the charter)	177	Students on Waitlist as of 5/18/2021	247
Final Number of Instructional Days during 2019-2020 School Year <small>Report the number of “in person” days separately from the number of “remote learning” days. (e.g. 124 in person days; 56 remote days)</small>	In Person 177 Remote 64 Total 186		
School Hours	8 a.m. – 3 p.m.	Age of School as of 2020-2021	25

Mission Statement

The Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School is a K1 through grade 6 Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) school serving all students. The school is founded on the belief that all students are able to develop academic mastery regardless of race, socioeconomic status, culture, native language, gender or sexual orientation. The staff of caring, dedicated, and highly qualified professionals integrate language and fine arts into the standard-based STEM curricula and use authentic data to monitor every student’s growth and achievement.

LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 30 we , 2021

Dear Families, Friends and Followers,

Welcome to the Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School’s 2020-21 Annual Report. We hope that all are healthy and safe in these unprecedented times. This school year, the Banneker community endured the challenges that many schools faced with Covid 19. Most parents know that Banneker educators take great pride in their work to provide your children with a well-rounded, rigorous and enjoyable education. At Banneker we believe that parents are our partners in the education of our students and we look forward to seeing you when we resume our many community events.

Unlike many schools in the state, Banneker was one of the few that opened its doors at the start of the regular school year. Teachers and staff arrived in mid August and welcomed students in late August to what was another successful year of rigorous and engaging education. Banneker began the school year with a hybrid instructional model. But we knew that students were served best when they were in the presence of our dedicated and motivated staff. Although some parents choose to keep their children remote, many recognized that Banneker was able to keep their children safe and engaged in their classrooms. The flexibility and trust of our parents allowed us to fully open in person learning in April.

This year was another milestone for Banneker as we celebrated our 25th year and received our fifth charter renewal from the Department of Elementary and Secondary education. As we look to the next charter term of five years, we recognize that the journey from good to great will require that we continue to invest in our community, building even closer relationships with our families.

Banneker’s success as a school community comes from our agility, adaptability and self reflectiveness. In this next term, Banneker will continue to evolve and ensure the continued enhancement of our rigorous and recognized program for students. We will continue to use technology as infrastructure but will rely on ongoing training of staff, exposure to new methods, tools and practices so that our educators can continue to innovate as we move Banneker from good to great.

Academic success at Banneker is a result of our success in cultivating an environment that fosters an authentic belief in our students' ability to achieve at the highest levels. That belief is shared by mission-driven and student-centered educators, who are supported by a community of engaged parents acting as partners in their children's education.

Sincerely,

Chair, Board of Trustees
Lin Tucker

Executive Director
Sherley Bretous

Highlights of 2020-2021- Preparations, Reopening, Educating, Graduating

Banneker hosts its 2nd virtual/drive-in graduation - well attended online and offline



Banneker Strong



Banneker's Successful Fall Reopening



Banneker's Response to COVID



K1 was full in person learning



Another Successful Year!



Faithfulness to the Charter

Mission, Vision and Key Design Elements

Mission Statement:

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Vision:

The Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School will be known as a school that is changing the face of public education. It will be an example of educational excellence and dignity. Banneker students will excel in all academic and non-academic areas, and be well prepared for high school and beyond. They will respect themselves, their classmates, their school, their community, and the value of education.

All members of the Banneker community will support each other in pursuit of these common goals. We will exhibit commitment, compassion, patience, and perseverance. We will strive to meet the needs of each student and we will challenge all students – expecting achievement and celebrating success when our students soar

KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS:

Educational Philosophy	We believe that every student is a unique and talented individual who can and will learn when provided with a rich curriculum, engaging student-centric environment, high quality teachers, and a culture of high expectations and social-emotional support.
Instructional Framework	Banneker has evolved and developed a framework for the delivery of instruction that engages the student as active participant in their learning. Our educators recognize that active participation in the process of learning creates life-long learners able to apply their knowledge to the challenges they will face in their lives and careers. Our curriculum is agile, continuously improving and aligned to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks.
Learning Analytics & Data	The use of research-based methods, interim formative assessments, learning analytics, and proven platforms provide Banneker staff with timely data. Student data is used for instructional and classroom insights that allow for differentiated instruction to support the individual need of the child. Banneker’s approach to data is unique, sophisticated, evolving and differentiates our practice from many other schools.
Professional Knowledge	The Banneker Coaching Model provides both horizontal and vertical alignment of our curriculum. Banneker’s educators participate in ongoing professional development, where data and feedback are embedded into the weekly routine of teachers and staff. Ongoing teacher training, and continuous improvement of curriculum enhances the craft of teaching. Banneker has created an environment where teachers are encouraged to be innovative and grow. A yearly professional development calendar is one of the many elements provided in support of teachers and their development.
Classroom Environment	Each Banneker classroom reflects the student centric focus of the school, with open spaces for group lessons; in-class libraries with books reflecting the many cultures of the students; specific horseshoe tables for small group instruction; posted schedules, objectives and a visually rich and appealing environment that stimulates learning.
Teaching Elements	Using proven models such as Responsive Classroom or adapting programs such as Literacy Collaborative, Banneker’s educators are given the supports they need to be effective teachers. Each classroom is staffed with 2 adults (teacher and teacher associate) that work together to ensure the maximum learning time for students.
Student Involvement	Students at Banneker are active learners. In class they are encouraged and expected to participate in classroom learning as part of whole group, small group or technology assisted instruction. Exposure to the arts, physical education, music and many after school activities enhance students' social-emotional growth and exposure to the world beyond the school building. Banneker students enjoy many field trips, visits to Museum of Science, Washington DC, Plimoth Plantation are just a few where they learn to be mentally active, socially involved and globally aware.
Parents as Partners	Banneker takes great pride in its strong relationships with parents and the community. The school provides ongoing parent meetings and training on topics ranging from digital awareness to nutrition. Parents are able to participate in numerous events with their students and are often entertained by outstanding dance, music and art shows where student work is showcased. Communication between parents and teachers is respectful and collaborative, with a recognition for the role that parents, family and ancestry play in the future success of the student.

CHARTER AMENDMENT REQUESTS

Date	Amendment Requested	Pending or Approved?
	No Amendments requested this year	

ACCESS AND EQUITY: DISCIPLINE DATA-

The Banneker school community is one where respect for the individual and for learning are shared beliefs among students, staff and parents. As can be seen from the table below, Banneker’s in-school and out of school suspension rates are low. We are continually reviewing our policies and practices to ensure that students' social and emotional needs are being met. We believe in supporting and promoting the whole child and each student’s well-being and self esteem.

2020-21 Student Discipline					
Student Group	Total Number of Students	Students Disciplined	Percent In-School Suspension	Percent Out-of-School Suspension	Percent Emergency Removal
All Students	338	0	0	0	0
EL	17	0	0	0	0
Economically Disadvantaged	199	0	0	0	0
Students with Disabilities	50	0	0	0	0
High Needs	234	0	0	0	0
Female	182	0	0	0	0
Male	161	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	0	0	0
Asian	3	0	0	0	0
African American/Black	282	0	0	0	0
Hispanic/Latino	33	0	0	0	0
Multi-race, Non-Hispanic/Latino	13	0	0	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	2	0	0	0	0
White	9	0	0	0	0

For more details:

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/ssdr/default.aspx?orgcode=04200000&orgtypecode=5&=04200000&&fycode=2019>

DISSEMINATION PRACTICES

In the 2020-2021 school year Banneker educators, staff continued to be active in disseminating many practices that have been developed over more than 24 years serving Cambridge and community students.

Best Practice Shared	Vehicle for Dissemination	Who at the school was involved with the dissemination efforts?	With whom did the school disseminate its best practices? (Partners and Locations)
Practices in remote learning	Meeting with Commissioner Staff	Executive-In-Residence	Commissioner Riley Executive staff
Building an Achievement Culture	Research review of Banneker to create a case study	Exec. Dir, Curriculum coaches, teachers	Rennie Center for Education Research and Policy
Strategies for ESL	Article	ESL instructor	Outside educators
SEL	Strategic plan	Executive Director/ Intermediate Literacy Coach	Other school leaders
School re-opening	School Tour	Executive Director, K-2 Literacy Coach	Executive Director Hillview Charter School

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year Banneker was actively sharing the practices that we believe have led to our successful student outcomes. We continued to share our best practices in remote instruction and learning with other schools and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The school continues to enhance our team’s ability to use data and learning analytics to create instructional insights is an ongoing and evolutionary process. Developing the human capacity to actually use much of the data produced from new technology tools is as complex as the installation and deployment of technology. Each year we share practices with charter school leaders across the country. In the process of sharing our own work with other school leaders we gain insight to enhance our practice even more for the years to come.

Additionally, each year in the first few months, Banneker opens its doors to other school leaders that want to visit the school, share best practices and review our instructional programming. This year Hillview Charter School visited the school to experience how we responded to COVID and reopened with safety measures in place.

Our efforts to share best practices are not limited to educators. This year we continued to hold monthly parent meetings to share practices and information about the benefits and dangers of social media, the impact of nutrition on learning and to address how the recent pandemic can impact students' mental health .

STUDENT PERFORMANCE (DUE TO COVID 19- WE ARE USING 2019 DATA)

Overall Classification	Accountability Percentile	Progress Toward Improvement Targets
2019	2019	2019
Not requiring assistance or intervention Met All expectations	85 percentile For more details please check the official report here: http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/accountability/report/school.aspx?fycode=2019&orgcode=04200205&report_mode=SUMMARY	Meeting 89% of Improvement targets

For more details: - See Program Delivery section below and:
<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/general.aspx?topNavId=1&orgcode=04200000&orgtypecode=5&>

Program Delivery

BEFORE THE BELL

Student Transportation

Many Banneker students start their day very early and travel long distances to attend school. That journey from home to school, we believe, is important to the success of the school day. Banneker remains one of the few charter schools to provide free bus transportation for students within the greater Boston Area. Banneker hired buses are staffed with a bus monitor and cameras to ensure the start of the student’s day begins safely and under adult supervision. Banneker has bus stops throughout Boston, Medford and Cambridge.

Student Nutrition

At the Banneker students are provided with free breakfast and lunch daily. Recognizing the importance of a healthy diet that is more accessible and student friendly, Banneker kicked off the year with a new food service vendor. This change offered students healthier meal choices and a new menu that we believe has better options for our students. Additional emphasis was placed on encouraging students to fully participate in our breakfast and lunch program. We strongly encourage students to understand the importance of nutrition and how it impacts both a healthy mind and active body.

COACHING MODEL

Banneker continues to evolve and enhance the use of a content coaching model in English Language Arts, Math and Science. Our Content Coaches ensure that the Banneker program is both horizontally and vertically aligned. Content Coaches have expertise in instructional supports for the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks and they support classroom teachers in honing their craft, using data, analysis and best practices. Coaches are continuously reviewing interim assessment data and working in classrooms directly engaging with students and teachers as needed.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

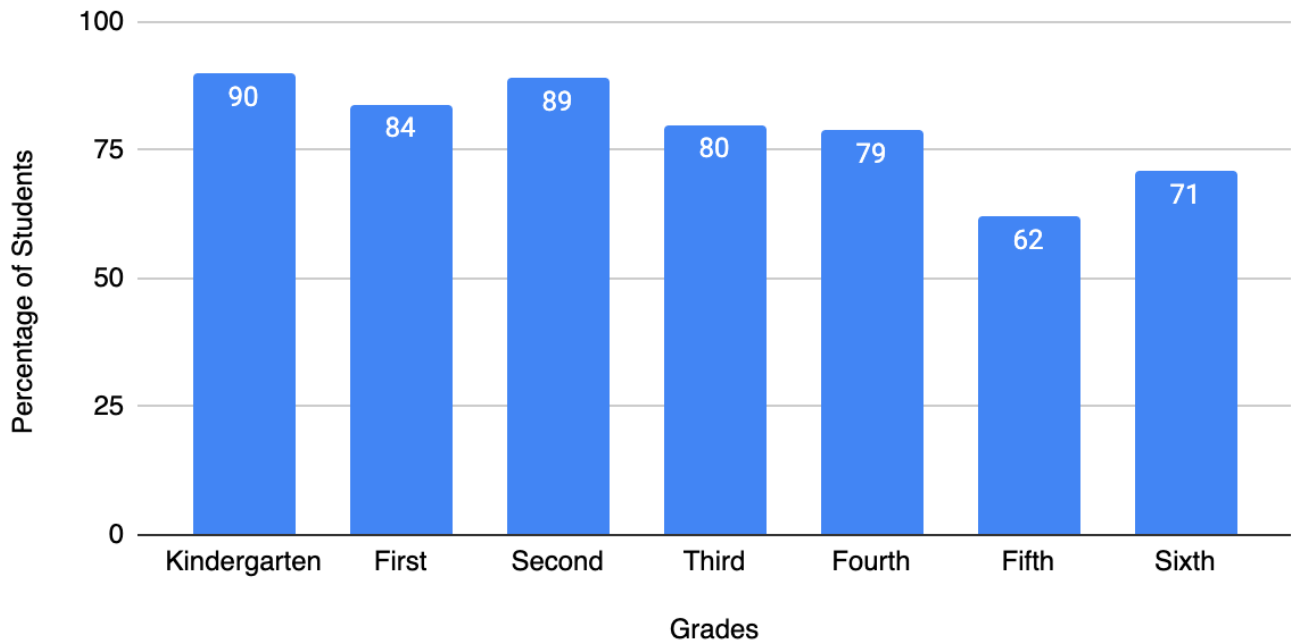
The foundation of Banneker’s literacy program is Literacy Collaborative, a research-based, instructional framework that is language-based, student-centered, and both process and outcome oriented.

This program:

- Provides long term, site-based professional development for teachers
- Provides in-school leadership through the training and support of school administrators, leadership teams, and literacy coordinators
- Provides additional in-class support through direct instruction as well as coaching
- Emphasizes systematic data collection, assessment, and analysis to monitor the progress of students

Reading iReady Diagnostics: End of Year

% of Students Scoring On/Above Grade Level



2020-2021 results on the iReady Diagnostics

Reading and Writing Units

The reading and writing curriculum is organized into six units of study. They are vertically and horizontally aligned to the Massachusetts State Standards, and are connected in a manner that enables students to read, write, talk, and think critically and analytically about a range of texts.

Language and Word Study

At the Banneker our language and word study curriculum focuses on the essential elements of phonics and oral language development. It consists of daily word study lessons that cover language, word knowledge and vocabulary.

Intervention

Lexia- This particular reading software supports the teaching of primary reading skills by identifying and targeting

individual reading skills. Since Lexia recognizes that improving reading comprehension is directly related to strengthening foundational reading skills it easily complements our current literacy program. All of our first graders have daily access to this program for a minimum of twenty minutes. Teachers use the data in small reading groups to reinforce areas of concern while continuing to move all students forward. Lexia is also available to students in grades K and 2 who need additional support.

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) continues to support qualifying students in grades K-2. This program is a supplementary instructional system for children who struggle in reading and writing. Students meet in a small group with a reading teacher five times per week for a minimum of eighteen weeks. The goal of this intervention is to provide intensive targeted instruction to support struggling readers as they move to grade level competency. At the end of the program, all of the students who participated made significant progress ending either one level below or on grade level.

Key Components of this program consist of-

- A combination of reading, writing, phonics and word study with an emphasis on comprehension strategies
- Attention to the features of fiction and nonfiction texts
- Specific work on sounds, letters, and words in activities to help children notice the details of written language and how language works
- Vocabulary building and explicit teaching for fluent and phrased reading

Program Evaluation

Banneker uses observations, feedback and data from the following assessments to evaluate the literacy program:

- Clay Observation Survey (K1-1)
- Running Records (K1-2)
- Fountas & Pinnell Benchmark Assessment (K1-6)
- Banneker ELA end of unit Assessments (3-6)
- iReady Diagnostics
- MCAS (3-6)

As we continue to improve our practice of using data to guide instruction we have committed to using the iReady diagnostic assessment in both ELA and math for pre- mid and end of year data collection and monitoring. This gives the school at least 2 measures for each grade to allow a pre-post comparison to assess annual growth. We have not yet determined if the use of these online diagnostics delivers a true measure of performance for our youngest learners. For our older students, the results of our analysis are promising as an indicator of annual academic growth by grade, class and student.

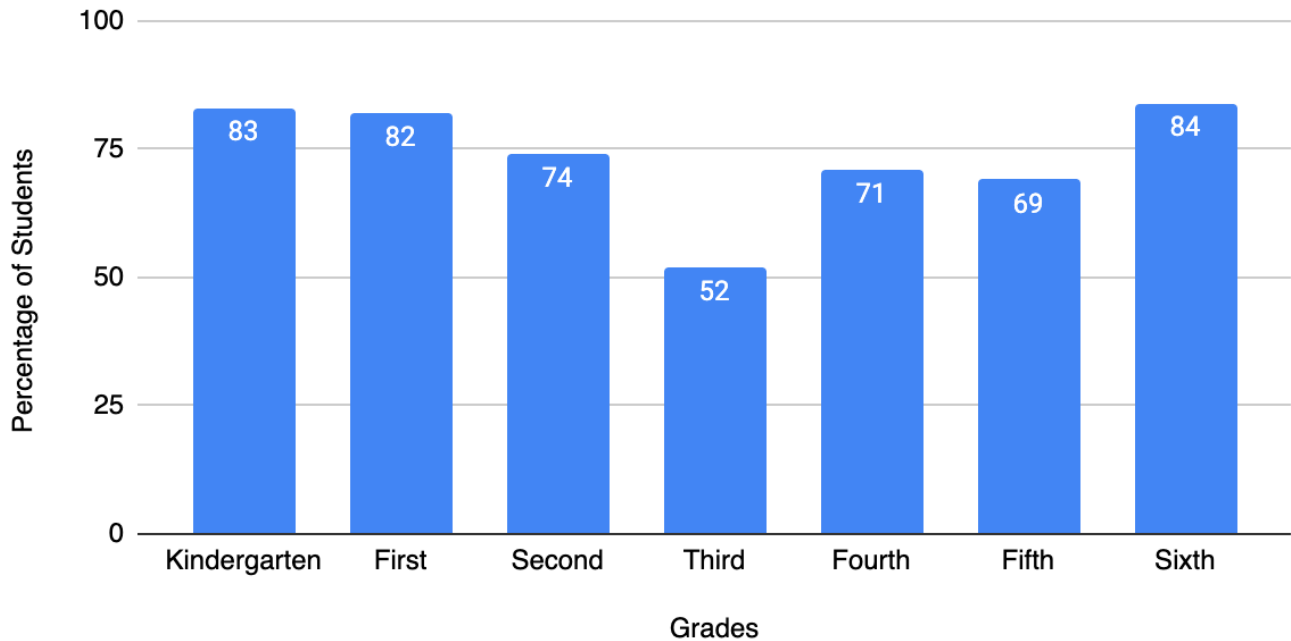
Working with our outside learning analytics partner (Ed Inquiry, LLC), coordinating data literacy and blended learning, we are testing how well these diagnostic tools align to internal assessments and most importantly actual MCAS outcomes.

MATHEMATICS

The Banneker math program promotes student mastery of grade level 2017 Massachusetts Curriculum Framework expectations. We use a variety of curriculum resources and instructional practices to help each and every student access math content and develop habits in keeping with the math practice standards. All grades have a minimum of eight math blocks a week and include a daily whole group lesson, small group instruction and independent or small group practice. The math coach and teachers meet weekly with grade level teams to discuss the pacing and the specific skills and understandings students need to acquire for each math topic. The math intervention teacher supports students in grades 2-6 who need additional support providing both in class and pull out interventions.

Math iReady Diagnostics: End of Year

% of Students Scoring On/Above Grade Level



2020-2021 results on the iReady Diagnostic

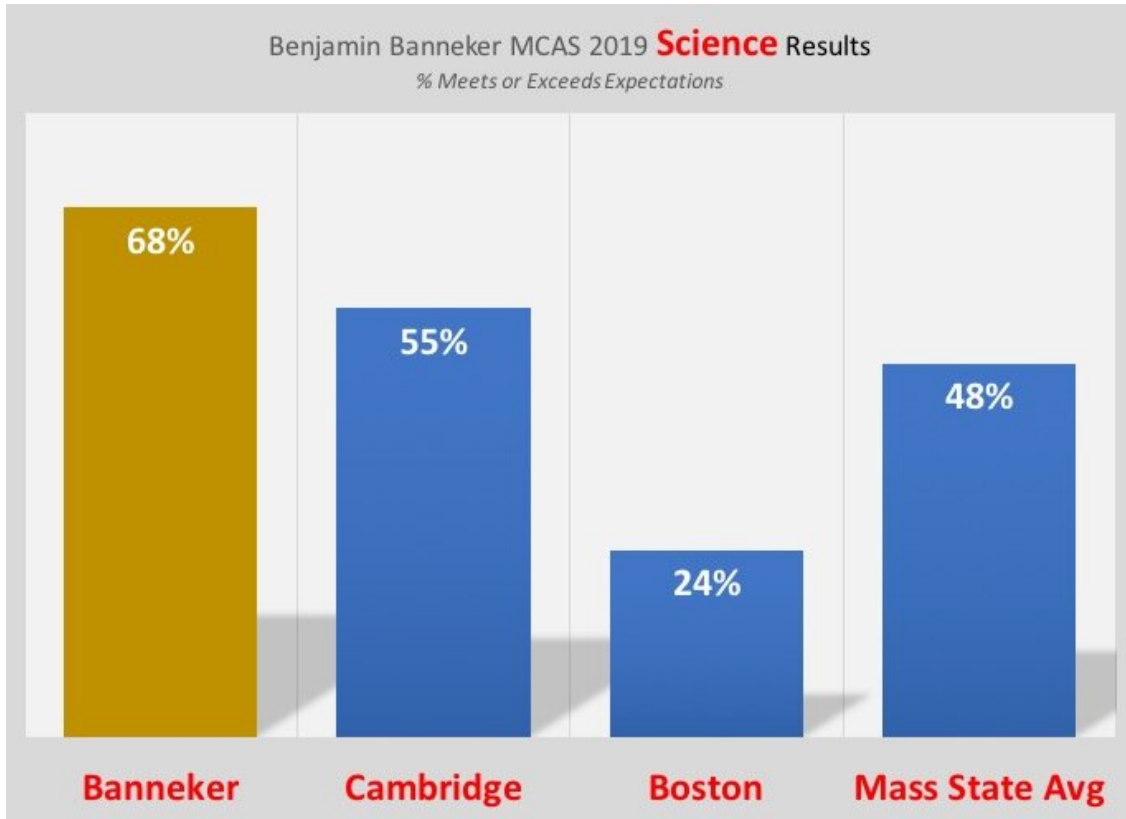
We continue to use educational technology, blended personalized learning, differentiation and data driven instruction in math. Data is a pivotal influence on curriculum and instruction. Typically, the instructional coach and classroom teachers use MCAS and i-Ready to plan for the beginning of the year. Due to the Covid 19, i-Ready was the only available data used school-wide. As the year progressed, we administered end of unit assessments, as well as a mid and end of year iReady assessment. In addition, students in grades 3-6 took the 2021 MCAS. Each of these data points will be compiled to build a rich data profile for each student. Over the course of the 2020-2021 school year, instructional coaches used the data from iReady and unit assessments to assist teachers with identifying strategies to close skills gaps for struggling students. In addition, teachers were supported as they provided challenges and opportunities for the enrichment of students that are moving beyond grade level learning.

A wide range of printed and online resources are used to ensure we are reaching all students. These include but are not limited to:

- Math in Focus
- Envisions
- Engage New York
- Developing Number Concepts
- iReady Diagnostics
- IXL
- Tang Math
- Rational Number Project, Units 1 and 2

SCIENCE/STEM

Science taps into a child’s innate curiosity, and as a STEM school, the Banneker believes that students can be motivated to learn science if given the chance to explore and become engaged with the many aspects of scientific discovery. Our cross-grade level curriculum offers concrete experiences on which to build scientific conceptual understandings, process skills, persistence and the application of mathematical skill and reasoning.



2018 - 2019 results on the Science MCAS

Banneker’s science curriculum is reviewed continuously and evolves to enhance our use of technology and new methods to engage students. This standards-based curriculum has the topics from each of the four science domains: Life Science, Earth & Space Science, Physical Science, Technology/Engineering aligned vertically within each grade and horizontally across grades, to create a sequenced and coherent arrangement that is easy for students to understand and teacher to adopt and adapt.

The primary goal is to provide students with the knowledge and understanding of science that enables them to:

- View their natural world in ways that make meaning and sense to them; relate science to their everyday life experiences.
- Engage in practices and ways of thinking that establish, extend and refine their knowledge and understanding of science.
- Participate in the caring and sustaining of their natural environment, develop creativity and imagination through science, and learn about the joys of human scientific achievement.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Our social studies curriculum is evolving and new teaching methods are constantly being explored and used to introduce basic Civics, geography and history of America to our students. At Banneker, Social Studies comes alive for

students using leading edge technologies and group base projects to study and re-enact many pivotal events in history. Each year Banneker celebrates the life of its namesake, the first African American Benjamin Banneker on November 9th, his birthday. Second grade students research and discuss his achievements during early colonial times in America, which is a requirement. They recreate one of his famous inventions, the wooden clock by creating one of their own during their STEM sessions. There's a whole school celebration and are-enhancement in character of Benjamin Banneker himself and all his life experiences during the celebration.

Walking into any social studies class you can encounter students working with technological devices for research to write about key events in American history. Another class may be re-enacting a key event using video or green screen techniques which can be found in our digital studio. This helps students understand and interpret key events throughout United States History.

But, the Banneker social studies curriculum goes beyond the classroom. Through many of our extracurricular programs students learn about musicians and artists in a historical context and are able to either perform or watch performances to celebrate their importance. Through the arts students create works related to historical events and the world's cultures. Banneker's Social Studies program places a special emphasis on creating a lasting social and global awareness among our 5th and 6th graders.



BEE ENRICHMENT AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

The Banneker Extended Enrichment Program (Banneker BEE) is an academic and social reinforcement program committed to quality and to supporting children as they continue on their path of personal growth and education towards becoming successful and contributing members of society.

In addition to academics, we encourage children to engage in creative play and in projects to learn about themselves and the world around them through crafted lessons and activities. Students work on homework, practice good study habits, and explore activities and projects that may lead to lifelong interests and widen their world of possibilities. They also learn basic conflict resolution and leadership skills.

All students are supported and encouraged to feel safe to be themselves as they learn to work within the community while in the program.

This year, even with the COVID-19 challenges, students were chemists, engineers, artists, inventors, leaders, learners, and dreamers. It took on a very different form with virtual and hybrid experiences.

This year the BEE Program continued hosting staff professional development and tested an on-line prototype version of afterschool through our remote learning platform.

DIGITAL LITERACY AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (TECHNOLOGY)

At Banneker, technology continues to be a fundamental part of both the teaching and learning process. Students learn that technology is a resource and tool with which they can improve upon the world in which they live. In addition to having computers in each classroom, iPads in each K-2 classroom, and a MacBook for every student in the 3rd through 6th grade, Banneker provides a state-of-the-art Digital Learning Studio. There are Apple TVs in every classroom. This allows teachers to mirror activity from their laptop to their projector. A full-time Technology Facilitator supports students and teachers in both the technology lab and in classrooms.

In the 2020-21 school year, Banneker did not offer the Innovation Lab electives due to the global pandemic. Regular digital literacy and computer science concepts were taught both in-person and remote. The focus of these sessions were around coding, robotics, and engineering (clocking making, etc.). The scope and sequence for the Digital Literacy curriculum can be found on banneker.org/technology. Student creations were showcased around the school and on social media (@bbcps) throughout the school year.

Technology Professional development focused on remote learning, instructional tools to aid remote learning, and the Google Workspace suite of applications.

The Technology used at Banneker and the familiarity that students had with technical platforms prior to the Covid 19 closure was instrumental in the move from face-to-face classroom teaching to remote learning during the Covid 19 closure. Within a matter of days of closure Banneker students were up and running in online classes, many held daily, using Google suite of tools for education such as Google Classroom. Teachers with the support of our IT staff were connecting with students for both safety check in and academic instruction. During the period of closure we reinforced the need for computer safety for students. This platform continued in the 2020-21 school year as we successfully opened in August with a hybrid teaching model.

THE BANNEKER EXPERIENCE

We pride ourselves in offering all our students a unique and rigorous educational experience. One that they will remember favorably. As we continue to evolve our academic program to ensure fidelity to the mission and vision, we are pleased to be able to offer several enrichment opportunities for students that make the Banneker school a highly sought-after choice for Cambridge families. Banneker students not only excel academically, they also learn the joy of project collaboration as they work together on dance performances, art shows, concerts and competitions such as the spelling bee or speech. Banneker enrichments extend beyond the building to include exposure to outdoor activities that include skiing, camping, horseback riding and rock climbing. Banneker believes in the development of the whole child with an understanding that book knowledge is not enough to give students the exposures needed for future success. As such we offer many enriching activities that supplement the work happening in our classrooms daily. Unfortunately, like many other events, Banneker had to curtail its external field trips this past year and look forward to engaging students again next year.

1. We strive to ensure that our academic program meets the needs of all of our students. We pride ourselves on being a STEM School with an excellent Music and Arts Program. Benjamin Banneker hosts many annual events such as a STEAM'S Expo, spaghetti dinner, K1-2 performance, 4th grade school musical, Winter Concert, Spring Instrumental Concert, and spelling bee.
2. In addition to our digital studio and floating lab, we have a One to One Computer Program; We provide MacBook Pros for each student in grades 3 through 6th. Graduates are able to purchase their computers for a minimal fee.
3. Banneker offers monthly parent meetings where various content and topics are covered, dinner and childcare are provided at no cost to parents to ensure that all families can attend.
4. We have Adventure Club which gives our children experiences in hiking, climbing rock, biking, skiing and much more. Banneker Bolts, our cross-country team, participates against other local youths.
5. We have many after school clubs and activities for students from dance to robotics.

6. Since our doors opened we have been providing breakfast at no cost to families and starting in the 2015/2016 school year lunch was also provided at no cost. In addition, all school supplies, including an age appropriate book for new kindergarten students, are provided to parents free of charge.
7. Our program includes designated student field trips for additional hands-on learning and exposure. Field trips include:

Grade	Banneker Experience
<i>Whole School (K1-6)</i>	<i>Boston Museum of Science</i>
<i>K1-2</i>	<i>Boston Children's Museum New England Aquarium Massachusetts ZOO Big Apple Circus</i>
<i>3rd Grade</i>	<i>Professional Performance Plimoth Plantation Overnight</i>
<i>4th Grade</i>	<i>School Musical</i>
<i>5th Grade</i>	<i>Nature's Classroom Overnight</i>
<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>Museum of Fine Arts Washington DC</i>

Banneker Bolts – Track Team

Although COVID prevented us from having the track team this year, we hope to start again in the fall. The mission of the Banneker Bolts Cross Country team is to provide an experience that will encourage each athlete to strengthen their competitive spirit and nurture their desire for success in all aspects of life.

Participation in running can help build self-esteem and confidence. It can motivate children to excel academically and help build social and coping skills. Participation also teaches children the benefits of goal setting and practice. It teaches them that healthy living will only help enhance their lives as they move forward.

The Bolts look forward to the upcoming season where both returning and new members will help to grow on our program.



Adventure Club

This year, due to COVID we were forced to put the Adventure Club on hold. Typically the club hosts 6 outings for students in grades 5-6 which include hiking, indoor rock climbing, overnight snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. We also begin introducing the program to our 4th graders with a few day activities. We plan on kicking off the 2022-23 school year off in the fall!

Banneker Band

There are many Banneker teachers and staff that are musicians that share their passion for music with students. In addition to a formal age appropriate music exposure, students can participate with teachers in the Banneker band. And band members visit the Boston Symphony during the year. Music is welcomed as an essential part of the many cultures within the school.

Banneker Beat – Dance Troupe

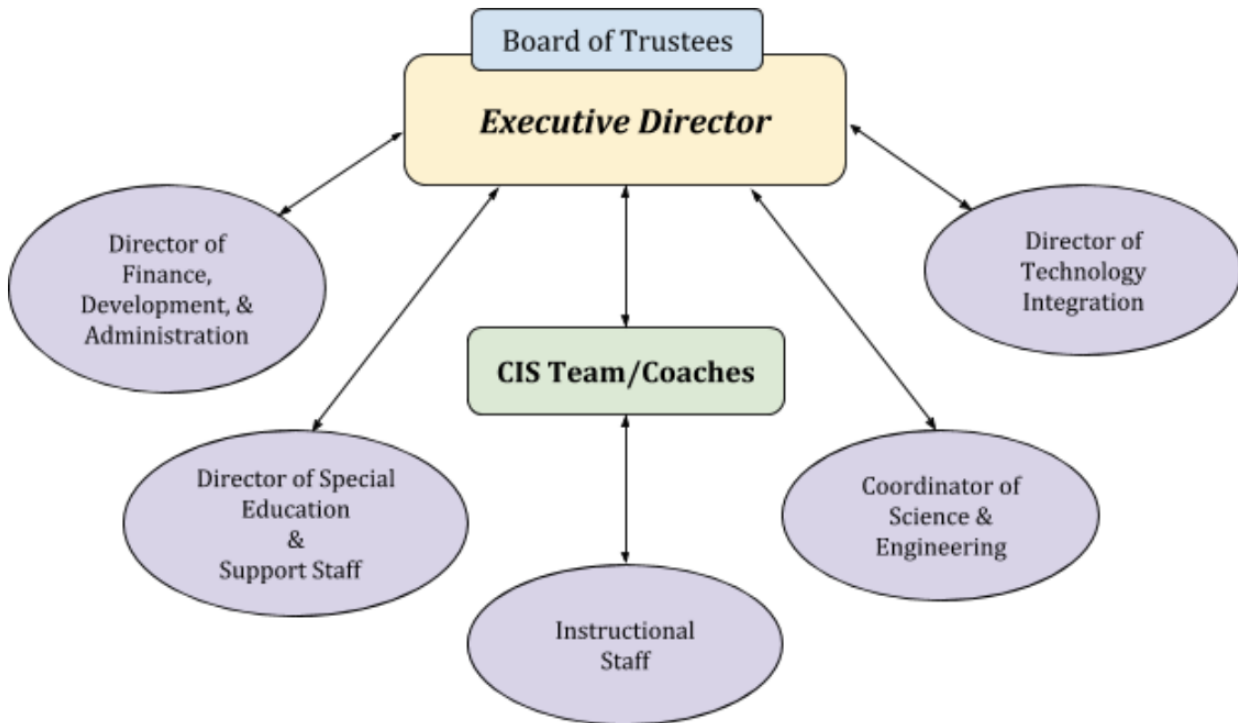
In the fall of 2018 Banneker introduced the Banneker Beat, a cross grade level dance troupe that performs for students and parents during day and evening school assemblies, as well as off campus venues. As of today students continue to develop their passion for dance. Even though the Covid pandemic closure halted the program for the year early, students managed to practice and shared their development using FaceTime, Google Meets and Zoom. Students are taught, exposed and expected to perform all different types of dance genres from Tap, Jazz, Hip Hop, Modern and Ballet.

While learning dance students are given several mini lessons about the history of the dance they are currently perfecting. Because our school is culturally sensitive, students learn about the masters of African American musicians and dancers such; as Cab Calloway and the Nicholas Brothers, James Brown and Misty Copeland. They are also exposed to Africana, Carribean and Latin dance influences.



Past performances of the Banneker Beat

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



TEACHER EVALUATION

Teachers receive feedback and guidance based on Banneker’s Teaching and Learning Framework (TLF) document and checklist. All feedback is documented in TeachPoint, an online evaluation tool that provides teachers with immediate feedback. This online platform also allows teachers to provide evidence that supports meeting their SMART Goals. Members of the Curriculum and Instructional Support (CIS) Team (content area coaches) as well as the Leadership Team (Executive Director, Director of Support Services and Director of Technology) conduct weekly informal teacher observations. When these observations indicate a need, the Executive Director and the CIS Team create an action plan with the teacher, recommending professional development and providing structured coaching support. The formal evaluation process is completed using TeachPoint and includes a self-reflection, a formal observation by the Executive Director, Director of Support Services or Director of Technology, a review of the year’s feedback, and a summative evaluation and meeting with the Executive Director.

Budget and Finance

BUDGET AND FINANCE Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School UNAUDITED FY2021 Operating Statements

	2021	2020
Operating Revenue:		
Tuition	\$ 8,516,589.00	8,019,175.00
In Kind Transportation	1,164,823.00	1,164,823.00
Government grants	503,028.00	252,308.00
Program fees and other	236,251.00	234,443.00
Total Operating revenue:	10,420,691.00	9,670,749.00
Operating Expenses:		
Personnel costs:		
Salaries	5,268,313.00	4,609,152.00
In-kind pension	897,158.00	897,158.00
Employee Benefits	587,483.00	603,411.00
Payroll taxes	185,820.00	191,323.00
Staff Development	19,583.00	164,827.00
Total personnel costs	6,958,357.00	6,465,871.00
Occupancy costs:		
Rent	513,483.00	498,447.00
Maintenance	537,588.00	382,982.00
Depreciation	100,993.00	110,636.00
Utilities	84,968.00	60,096.00
Total occupancy costs	1,237,032.00	1,052,161.00
Student costs:		
Transportation	413,624.00	395,836.00
Classroom supplies	353,640.00	388,924.00
student activities	46,508.00	90,303.00
food service	121,326.00	148,287.00
contracted services	51,414.00	131,115.00
in-kind transportation	153,440.00	153,440.00
Total student costs	1,139,952.00	1,307,905.00
Other operating costs:		
Computer supplies	104,797.00	88,072.00
Professional fees	115,265.00	115,265.00
Supplies	32,160.00	27,541.00
Recruitment	71,472.00	97,067.00
Miscellaneous	69,419.00	69,120.00
Insurance	40,120.00	32,366.00
Telephone	48,055.00	19,271.00
Dues and subscriptions	102,274.00	68,896.00
Depreciation	16,567.00	16,567.00
Board Development	8,565.00	8,565.00
Administrative Expenses	380,995.00	324,148.00
Printing and postage	8,115.00	10,129.00
Total other operating costs	997,804.00	877,007.00
Total operating expenses	9,096,113.00	9,702,944.00

**Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School
Statement of FY21 Net Assets (Balance Sheet)**

ASSETS	2021	2020
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 9,068,817.00	7,840,941.00
Accounts Receivable		46,676.00
Prepaid expenses	249,627.00	62,109.00
Total current assets	<u>9,318,444.00</u>	<u>7,949,726.00</u>
Capital Assets		
Leasehold improvements	2,028,457.00	1,984,814.00
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	407,984.00	184,473.00
	<u>2,436,441.00</u>	<u>2,169,287.00</u>
Less- accumulated depreciation	2,055,873.00	1,903,557.00
Net capital assets	380,568.00	265,730.00
Total assets	<u>\$ 9,699,012.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,215,456.00</u>
Liabilities and Net Position		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable	62,661.00	21,001.00
Accrued expenses	707,919.00	584,505.00
Total current liabilities	<u>770,580.00</u>	<u>605,506.00</u>
Net Position:		
Unrestricted	8,894,683.00	7,539,899.00
Net invested in capital assets		
Total Net Position	8,894,683.00	7,539,899.00
Total liabilities and net position	<u>\$ 9,665,263.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,145,405.00</u>

**Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School
Statement of FY21 Cash Flows**

Cash flows from operating activities	
Change in net position	1,879,348
Adjustments to reconcile changes in net position to net cash provided by operating activities	
Depreciation	
AR	46,676
Prepaid	(187,518)
AP	48,999
Accrued expense	(408,140)
Due to/from	901
PTO Fundraising	(37,044)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>1,343,222</u>
Cash Flows from investing activities	
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(114,838)</u>
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	1,228,384
Cash and Cash Equivalents:	
Beginning of year	7,840,941
End of year	<u><u>9,069,325</u></u>

School Budget for FY 21

Board approved the FY 2021 budget at the April 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees

**Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School
School Budget for FY 22**

Board approved the FY2022 budget at the May 2021 regular meeting of the Board of Trustees

		FY22 Budget
Revenue		
	Per Pupil Tuition	8,099,367
	Federal Grants	254,831
	Nutrition Program	108,638
	After School	99,774
	Other Revenue Sources	1,282,920
Total Revenue		<u>9,845,530</u>
Expenses		
	Total Salaries	4,428,649
	NEC	1,175,087
	Health Insurance and Other Fringe Benefits	661,058
	Payroll Taxes	205,210
	Professional Development	71,906
	Total Benefits	<u>2,113,261</u>
	Total Staff Related Expenses	<u>6,541,910</u>
	Information Technology	351,163
	Student Activities	126,647
	Instructional Programs	293,640
	Transportation	407,711
	Nutrition program	156,521
	Rent	575,000
	Repairs and Maintenance	347,333
	Utilities	62,052
	Leasehold Depreciation	120,000
	General Administrative Expenses	270,363
	Total General Expenses	<u>2,710,430</u>
Total Salaries and Expenses		<u>9,252,340</u>
Surplus (Deficit)		<u><u>593,190</u></u>

Capital Plan FY 21-22

Project	Description	Status	Cost
Digital Wiring Project	To allow for Technology upgrades	Completed	\$90,000
Cafeteria Floor / Kitchen	New tile floor	Completed	\$50,000
Electrical Wiring	Wiring is old and outdated, needed for HVAC upgrade	Estimate	\$250,000
Sprinklers	Needed for HVAC upgrade	Estimate	\$550,000
Elevator	Chair lift (not replaceable)	Estimate	\$1,000,000
Portico	Code and Safety updates	Estimate	\$75,000
Exterior ADA Stairs / Railings	Code and Safety updates	Completed	\$25,000
Parking Lot	More than five years old	Estimate	\$50,000
Window Replacement	Old-70% Completed	Admin Bldg and basement	\$150,000
K Playground	For lower grades	Estimate	\$ 20,000
Attic	Additional Storage	Estimate	\$25,000
Signage	New banners for exterior building	Completed	\$20,000
		Contingency	\$195,000
Total			\$2,500,000

FY21 Enrollment Table	Enter Number Below
Number of students pre-enrolled via April 26, 2021 submission	351
Number of students upon which FY21 budget tuition line is based	350
Number of expected students for FY21 first day of school	350
Please explain any variances: We don't pre-enroll, we only hold the lottery and wait for paperwork. Typically we do not know who is leaving until the end of June- September. We continue to enroll until October 1st. Each year we expect apx 5% of students to leave.	

Appendix A - Accountability Plan Performance

School Performance and Program Implementation

At the completion of the 2020-2021 school year, the Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School (BBCPS) completed the 25th year serving our community!

As we review our Accountability Plan submitted in 2016, we are proud to report on another year of solid annual gains. As we enter into the 2020-2021 school year, we will continue using performance measures outlined in the Accountability Plan that was approved on June 12, 2017.

FAITHFULNESS TO CHARTER:

Charter Period: 2016-2021	2020-2021 Performance (Met/Not Met)	Evidence
Objective 1: BBCPS will continue to provide a STEM education.		
Measure: 100% of students will participate in an annual <i>STEAMS' Exposition (science, technology, engineering, art and math)</i> , to showcase new and innovative student generated projects.	Due to COVID we were unable to fulfil this objective Not Met	Typically for the STEAMS EXPO all students participate in class projects. The event is always well attended by the community.
Measure: Each year, Banneker will provide at least one experience for students to showcase their work on Active Use and/or design engineering concepts, as illustrated by curricular Scope and Sequences.	Met	Peer collaboration, media production, 3D design, and programming/coding were the focus of this year's curriculum. Scope and sequence for DLCS can be found on banneker.org/technology and on bannekerinnovation.org . Student creations were showcased around the school and on social media@bbcps.
Objective 2: BBCPS will implement a high quality academic program.		

<p>Measure: Each year, 70% of students in grades 1-6 will achieve proficiency by the end of the year in each school created unit assessments in ELA, Mathematics, and Science.</p>	<p>Partially Met</p>	<p>This year we continued using IReady as an online Assessment</p> <p>Based on our 2020-2021 End-of -Year iReady Diagnostics data, we met our performance target in ELA at every grade level with the expectation of grade five. In mathematics, we missed our performance target in grades three and five.</p>
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<p>Measure: BBCPS teachers will participate in weekly coaching/planning sessions in ELA, Mathematics and Science to ensure that all lessons are aligned to the Common Core.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Coaching observations in ELA and math occur on a regular basis. ELA, Math and Science planning meetings are documented and maintained by content coaches.</p>
<p>Measure: Each year, from one year to the next, English Learners will improve language proficiency by moving up at least one level in 2 out of 4 language domains based on annual ACCESS test results.</p>	<p>Not Met</p>	<p>Due to Pandemic ACCESS was administered when students returned to school in the spring. ACCESS scores are not available at this time.</p>
<p>Measure: Each year all students with IEPs will reach mastery on 75% of IEP academic objectives by their annual IEP review.</p>	<p>Partially Met</p>	<p>A majority of students (86%) mastered 75% or greater of IEP objectives. Four students (14 %) met between 50-60% mastery of IEP objectives. Remote learning was very challenging for these students.</p>
<p>Measure: BBCPS teachers will participate in regularly scheduled school-wide professional development as well as conferences and workshops.</p> <p>Each year 90% of the teaching staff will attend weekly internal PD sessions.</p> <p>Measure: Each year 40% of the teaching staff will attend external PD.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Internal professional development is held every Tuesday. Attendance is taken during each PD session and filed in a PD binder.</p> <p>Various external PD opportunities are offered to staff each school year. When attending, staff document and share their new learning. These forms are collected and saved in our data bank This year due to COVID 19 staff who attended PD virtually.</p>

Objective 3: BBCPS will support the whole child through a variety of *Banneker Experiences*

<p>Measure: The total number of discipline referrals and suspensions will decrease 5% from previous year's data.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Each year we continue to make progress in meeting our goal. In SY 16/17 we had 15 suspensions and 221 referrals. In SY17/18 we had 12 suspensions and 158 referrals. In SY 18/19 we continued to make progress and had only 9 suspensions and 95 referrals. In FY19/20 our early data projected that we would once again meet our goal. FY20/21 we had no discipline referrals.</p>
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<p>Measure: Each year, there will be a minimum of a 5% increase in the number of students who participate in Banneker Bucks program, the school’s positive behavior reinforcement program.</p>	<p>Not Met</p>	<p>In SY 16/17 we had 214 students rewarded for positive behavior and 777 Banneker Bucks were distributed. In SY 17/18 we met our goal! 225 Students were rewarded for their behavior and 509 Banneker Bucks were distributed. In SY 18/19 we maintained our progress and had 200 students rewarded for positive behavior and 500 Banneker. Due to COVID we did not distribute Banneker Bucks.</p>														
<p>Measure: BBCPS students will participate in at least two grade level experiences each year.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="142 562 760 1161"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Grade</i></th> <th><i>Experience</i></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><i>Whole School (PK-6)</i></td> <td><i>Boston Museum of Science</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>PK-2</i></td> <td><i>Boston Children’s Museum New England Aquarium Massachusetts ZOO</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>3rd Grade</i></td> <td><i>Theatre Performance Plimoth Plantation Overnight</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>4th Grade</i></td> <td><i>School Musical</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>5th Grade</i></td> <td><i>Nature’s Classroom Overnight</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>6th Grade</i></td> <td><i>Museum of Fine Arts Washington DC</i></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>BBCPS students in grades 4-6 also have opportunities to participate in the school's Adventure Club and Innovation Lab.</p>	<i>Grade</i>	<i>Experience</i>	<i>Whole School (PK-6)</i>	<i>Boston Museum of Science</i>	<i>PK-2</i>	<i>Boston Children’s Museum New England Aquarium Massachusetts ZOO</i>	<i>3rd Grade</i>	<i>Theatre Performance Plimoth Plantation Overnight</i>	<i>4th Grade</i>	<i>School Musical</i>	<i>5th Grade</i>	<i>Nature’s Classroom Overnight</i>	<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>Museum of Fine Arts Washington DC</i>	<p>Due to the state mandated school closure we were unable to fulfil this objective</p> <p>Partially Met</p>	<p>During SY 21-22 all activities should resume-</p> <p>In the fall the entire school will attend the Museum of Science.</p> <p>During SY 20-21 our grade K1 students went apple picking in the fall, while many other classes attended virtual field trips to the Boston Aquarium, Zoo and several other museums. In late May, our 3rd graders visited a local bookstores while our 6th graders who could not go to DC spent the day at Dave and Busters.</p>
<i>Grade</i>	<i>Experience</i>															
<i>Whole School (PK-6)</i>	<i>Boston Museum of Science</i>															
<i>PK-2</i>	<i>Boston Children’s Museum New England Aquarium Massachusetts ZOO</i>															
<i>3rd Grade</i>	<i>Theatre Performance Plimoth Plantation Overnight</i>															
<i>4th Grade</i>	<i>School Musical</i>															
<i>5th Grade</i>	<i>Nature’s Classroom Overnight</i>															
<i>6th Grade</i>	<i>Museum of Fine Arts Washington DC</i>															
<p>Objective 4: Each year BBCPS will share their successes and other achievements with other <i>Massachusetts</i> public schools.</p>																

<p>Measure: Each year BBCPS will invite a minimum of two schools a year to encourage colleagues to participate in a school tour and other school related activities to showcase best practices.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Banneker continues to open its doors to school leaders and educators. This year we continued to meet with other charter school leaders to share our innovations related to data literacy, staff recruitment and technology.</p> <p>We continue to enhance our social media outreach to educators nationally creating widely viewed YouTube videos demonstrating our instructional practices and use of arts and music.</p>
<p>Measure: During the next five years, BBCPS will aim to complete a minimum of three publications and two off site presentations that showcase the Banneker's best practices.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Banneker's success academically and as a school community was previously featured in a national presentation at a conference in Washington, DC. SY 21 our ELL Teacher had an article published in Classroom Perspectives.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Students at BBCPS will demonstrate ELA academic growth each school year.</p>		
<p>Measure: Based on the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System, (tool used to identify the instructional and independent reading levels) each year students in the general education program will be expected to make a minimum of a year's growth based on fall to spring assessments.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Due to COVID, this year most students were given the Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Assessment System and the IReady Diagnostics depending on if they attended school in person or remote. Data showed that most general education students made adequate growth in ELA.</p>

ORGANIZATIONAL VIABILITY

	<p>2020-2021 Performance (Met/Not Met)</p>	<p>Evidence</p>
<p>Objective: Solvency and Stability:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The school develops an annual budget that can be sustained by enrollment and is in support of student academic achievement. 2. The school demonstrates a history of positive net assets, adequate cash flow to sustain operations and support the academic program, and consistently operates within budget. 3. The school's annual independent audit is free of material or repeated findings. 		

Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School – Annual Report 2021

<p>Measure: 1. The school's annual budget is sustained by its enrollment by continuing to fill 90% of available seats and maintain an active waiting list.</p>	<p align="center">Met</p>	<p>We filled 100% of available enrollment, 350/350 of available seats. We have significantly increased the number of Cambridge families as a percentage of overall enrollment</p>
<p>Measure: 2. Each year, the school demonstrates a history of positive net assets, adequate cash flow to sustain operations and support the academic program and consistently operates within budget.</p>	<p align="center">Met</p>	<p>Cash reserves represent more than 25% of the annual budget</p>
<p>Measure: 3. There is an absence of material or repeated audit findings in annual audits by qualified independent auditor.</p>	<p align="center">Met</p>	<p>Received an unqualified opinion without findings on our annual audit</p>
<p>Objective: Fiscal Oversight: The board of trustees and school leadership implement effective structures and systems to enable responsible fiscal oversight of the school. The board of trustees demonstrates long-term fiscal oversight through appropriate planning processes.</p>		
<p>Measure: 1. Conduct regular (monthly) budget forecast meetings with the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees, in order to monitor budget activity.</p>	<p align="center">Met</p>	<p>Monitor monthly through Board of Trustees and Finance meetings</p>
<p>Measure: 2. Collaboration with the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees on creating an annual budget for the school.</p>	<p align="center">Met</p>	<p>Collaborated meetings with the Finance and Board meetings</p>
<p>Measure: 3. The Finance Committee will meet with auditors and debrief findings from the year-end audit.</p>	<p align="center">Met</p>	<p>Met with Auditors to debrief findings</p>
<p>Objective: Enrollment: The school implements the student recruitment, retention, and enrollment process intended in the charter, in the school's recruitment and retention plans, and as defined by statute and regulations.</p>		

<p>Measure: The Banneker school is committed to maintaining an enrollment of 350 students from the Boston, Cambridge, and surrounding communities. The Banneker will continue to increase Cambridge enrollment annually.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>This is the fourth year that Banneker has used an external marketing partner (Ed Inquiry, LLC) to design and manage our student recruitment campaign. This partnership has been successful leading to Banneker now having a waitlist of Cambridge families. We have filled most openings in K1, K and beyond with Cambridge families (with the exception of siblings) and have successfully recruited families local to Cambridge.</p> <p>Our recruitment efforts reach the entire community, welcoming all. We use a multi-media approach which includes social media, outdoor advertising and community outreach through our many parent events.</p>
<p>Objective: Board Accountability: The Board of Trustees is responsible to the school community it serves.</p>		
<p>Measure: The Board of Trustee creates annual board goals and completes a self-assessment, which is reported in the annual report.</p> <p>Board annual goals set each year in September.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Goals were set during the September Board Meeting.</p>
<p>Measure: 75% of annual goals met at year-end.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Goals met at the end of the year.</p>
<p>Measure: Self-evaluation administered each June at Annual Meeting.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>The Board completed their self-evaluation in May 2020.</p>
<p>Measure: 75% of participants satisfied that the Board has met its governance responsibilities each year.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>Over 75% of the members were satisfied that all governance responsibilities were met.</p>
<p>Objective: Decision Making and Communication: The school has clear and well-understood systems for decision-making and communication. These systems result in a common sense of purpose for all school constituencies.</p>		
<p>Measure: The Board of Trustee holds monthly meetings open to the public in order to ensure communication and transparency. 100% of meetings are open to the public and board minutes are available within 72 hours of meeting.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>All meetings were public and minutes available within 72 hours.</p>

<p>Objective: Family Engagement: The school involves parents/guardians as partners in the education of their children. Families and students are satisfied with the school’s program.</p>		
<p>Measure: Parental involvement is an essential component to the Banneker. Banneker conducts an annual parent survey: Measure: 65% of parents will respond to the survey.</p>	<p>Partially Met</p>	<p>This year we held all of our monthly parent meetings virtually and had a drastic increase in attendance. Parent survey response rates were lower this year due to Covid 19 pandemic and the cancellation of in parent school meetings.</p>
<p>Measure: 75% of respondents will state that they are encouraged to visit the website for information about the school, are informed about current happenings and updated on classroom events.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>80% felt informed about events at BBCPS.</p>
<p>Measure: 75% of respondents will state that they receive weekly newsletters about current events and other school news.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>90% responded that they received newsletters, and other news.</p>
<p>Measure: 75 % of respondents will state that they have attended at least 2 parent meetings.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>79% stated they went to at least 2 parent meetings.</p>
<p>Measure: 75% of respondents will state that they are satisfied with the schools’ program.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>98% are satisfied with the academic program at BBCPS.</p>
<p>Measure: 75% of respondents will state that they believe that the Banneker is a safe school.</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>96% believe their children are safe at Banneker.</p>
<p>Objective: Dissemination: The school collaborates with its sending district(s) on the sharing of innovative practices and provides models for replication and best practices.</p>		
<p>Measure: Banneker will participate in a minimum of one best practice-sharing event each year by publishing an article in an education journal or web site, or by a presentation at an education conference</p>	<p>Met</p>	<p>We continue to enhance our dissemination capacity by enhancing our ability to produce videos which can be used to reach busy parents, students, staff and educators around the Commonwealth. Our YouTube audience continues to grow and our work continues to be featured in the blogs of various web sites dedicated to educational best practices.</p>

Appendix B - Recruitment & Retention Plan

School Name: Benjamin Banneker Charter Public School

Date: July 31, 2021

Recruitment Plan – 2020-2021 Strategies
List strategies for recruitment activities for each demographic group.

Special education students/students with disabilities

<p>(a) CHART data</p> <p>School percentage: 14.9%</p> <p>GNT percentage: 13.3%</p> <p>CI percentage: 14.9%</p> <p>The school is <u>above</u> GNT percentages and <u>met</u> CI percentages</p>	<p>(b) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met GNT/CI: no enhanced/additional strategies needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banneker is an inclusive school. ● All students participate in all academic and non-academic activities at the Banneker. ● Students receive special education support from certified teachers and related service providers. ● We hold annual meetings with individual parents to discuss each child’s progress and are available to parents throughout the year. ● Parent/student meetings are held at least twice per year for parents of students on IEPs. ● Parents of students on IEPs are welcome, and encouraged to participate in whole school wide parent meetings and every other event held during the year.
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Limited English-proficient students/English learners

<p>(a) CHART data</p> <p>School percentage: 5.1%</p> <p>GNT percentage: 6.0%</p> <p>CI percentage: 6.2%</p> <p>The school is <u>below</u> GNT percentages and <u>below</u> CI percentages</p>	<p>(b) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have several bilingual staff who speak the predominant languages (Haitian Creole and Spanish) of our families to translate when needed. ● The student/parent handbook and annual report are available in three languages. ● We currently have report cards in three languages; Spanish, Creole and Amharic. ● All parent notices and forms are translated upon request.
	<p>(c) 2020-2021 Additional Strategy(ies), if needed</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Did not meet GNT/CI: additional and/or enhanced strategies needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our recruitment campaign has broad reach using media that is accessible to the entire Cambridge community. We will use outdoor advertising in multiple languages. ● The bulk of our referrals for early grades come from existing families in our communities. We reach the community through parental outreach events. ● We will use additional multi media and social media specifically for non-english communities within Cambridge ● Our billboard campaign will continue to be multilingual..

Students eligible for free or reduced lunch (Low Income/Economically Disadvantaged)

<p>(a) CHART data</p> <p>School percentage: 49.1%</p> <p>CI percentage: 21.9%</p>	<p>(b) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Met GNT/CI: no enhanced/additional strategies needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visiting subsidized and low-income housing in Cambridge to communicate Banneker’s specific wish to include all children regardless of their economic status, as expressed in the school’s mission; all students receive free breakfast and lunch.
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<p>The school is <u>above</u> CI percentages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school supplies all materials for learning. • Most field trips are paid for by the school and major trips such as the 6th grade DC trip and the 5th grade trip to Nature’s Classroom can be subsidized by fundraising and donations.
<p><u>Students who are sub-proficient</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(d) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p>We believe that the expansive use of outdoor advertising and social media where all travelers can see and experience our promotions ensure that we are reaching the widest range of parents. We are also using our web site to deliver more focused parental messaging via embedded videos from the executive Director and other staff members. The combined results of all of our efforts have expanded the reach for Banneker’s welcoming messages, encouraging an application or touring of the school.</p>
<p>Students at risk of dropping out of school</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(e) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p>Although we have no issues with students at risk of dropping out, we ensure that by meeting academic, social and emotional needs of our students and keeping the lines of communication open helps alleviate the possibility of a student dropping out.</p>
<p><u>Students who have dropped out of school</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(f) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p>We continue working with all students to help make their academic experience a success to ward off potential dropouts in the future. Our teachers and principal meet regularly with students and families to monitor at-risk students and help prevent students from dropping out in the future.</p>
<p>OPTIONAL <u>Other subgroups of students who should be targeted to eliminate the achievement gap</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(g) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p>We believe that the expansive use of outdoor advertising where all travelers can see and experience our promotions ensure that we are reaching the widest range of parents. We are also using our web site to deliver more focused parental messaging via embedded videos from the executive Director and other staff members. We also advertised in the Cambridge Chronicle and the combined results of all of our efforts have expanded the reach for Banneker’s welcoming messages, encouraging an application or touring of the school.</p>

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION 2020 – 2021

Implementation Summary: We continue to enhance our outreach and appeal to parents and residents of Cambridge. The Cambridge district student population is more diverse than most districts in the Commonwealth. English language learners in the Cambridge district were 8% of the student population. At Banneker they were 5%. Approximately 29% of the Cambridge student population were economically disadvantaged compared to 46% at Banneker.

Banneker innovates and differentiates its program to more successfully serve students that are historically underserved in district schools. As such, much of our recruitment occurs from word of mouth referrals within specific communities across the city. However, in an attempt to broaden the message and awareness of Banneker as a viable school choice for parents, this is the third year that we have expanded our outreach and “brand awareness,” promoting our school as a viable and successful option for Cambridge families. Our branding campaigns are local and broad reaching. Billboards describe the school’s successes, and engage the viewer with pictures of our students. Many of the billboards contain multilingual welcome messages that reflect the various ethnicities within Cambridge.

Additionally, our recruitment campaign continues to provide a glimpse into the school and its culture using video and social media that clearly shows the broad range of children and activities within the school community. Our website has also been designed to show the range of ethnicities enrolled and provide a very subtle welcome message in several languages. We reach other populations throughout the city using direct mail to each household with children in the age range that Banneker serves. The direct mail is multi-lingual, offering a welcome in various languages. Our online application process allows parents to review detailed information on the school, its policies and the enrollment requirements in several languages.

Even with this broad coverage across Cambridge and beyond, most applicants report that they received a recommendation for Banneker from family or friends, based on the positive results and favorable attitude of children attending or those that have graduated. We continue to have a very robust parental engagement strategy resulting in parents acting as local “evangelists” for the school to Cambridge families considering schooling options.

Banneker’s use of direct mail, outdoor advertising, community events, social media and parental engagement has been successful. We have had a record number of applicants of all types from Cambridge. For those families that have children with special needs or a disability, our outreach occurs using more interpersonal person-to-person methods. For families with children that have special needs, no matter the type, we encourage a school visit and tour. We believe that the best way to demonstrate our inclusive community is to actually observe it in action. Parents with students with disabilities appreciate the ability to better understand the services offered and the classroom environment that their children will experience.

Our outreach campaigns in the last few years have been broad and not targeted to specific population but instead targeted to the entirety of the Cambridge community, (White, Black, Hispanic, Asian and other). The campaigns proposed and adopted by the school stressed the academic outcomes that families can expect if their children attend Banneker. It is our belief that most parents want to access a high performing school no matter the race or ethnicity.

- We continually ensure that our academic program meets the needs of all of our students using an approach that is highly individualized.
- At the end of the school year we offer a limited number of computers for graduates to purchase at heavily discounted prices.
- Monthly parent meetings cover various topics. To ensure that all families can attend dinner and childcare are provided at no cost to parents.
- Banneker continues to provide free transportation for a majority of our families covering Boston areas and the North Shore starting in Revere. To ensure student safety, monitors are provided on each bus along with school cell phones. Our Local Motion busses are equipped with seat belts and motion operated cameras.
- We communicate with parents through phone messaging, emails, weekly backpack, the school website and parent conferences.
- For grades 4-6 we have Adventure Club which gives our children experiences in hiking, climbing rock, biking, skiing and much more. For grades 3-6 we have the Banneker Bolts, our cross-country team, participates against other local youths. We also have lessons for students interested in playing a musical instrument. There is also chorus, band (for students who have participated in lessons for at least two years) and annual musicals.
- We provide school supplies at no cost to parents.
- Breakfast and lunch are free for all students, through our participation in CEP
- Parent Surveys are given out to get parent’s feedback on any concerns or issue they may have.
- We have an ongoing partnership with an experienced outsource partner that coordinates our branding, marketing and outreach.

Overall Student Retention Goal

Annual goal for student retention (percentage):	94%
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Retention Plan –2020-2021 Strategies	
List strategies for retention activities for each demographic group.	
Special education students/students with disabilities	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>(a) CHART data</u></p> <p>School percentage: 6.3% Third Quartile: 15.8%</p> <p>The school’s attrition rate is <u>below</u> third quartile percentages.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(b) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Below third quartile: no enhanced/additional strategies needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banneker is an inclusive school. ● All students participate in all academic and non-academic activities at the Banneker. ● Students receive special education support from certified teachers and related service providers. ● We hold annual meetings with individual parents to discuss each child’s progress and are available to parents throughout the year. ● Parent/student meetings are held at least twice per year for parents of students on IEPs. <p>Parents of students on IEPs are welcome, and encouraged to participate in whole school wide parent meetings and every other event held during the year.</p>
Limited English-proficient students	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>(a) CHART data</u></p> <p>School percentage: 0% Third Quartile: 18.5%</p> <p>The school’s attrition rate is <u>below</u> third quartile percentages.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(b) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Below third quartile: no enhanced/additional strategies needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have several bilingual staff who speak the predominant languages (Haitian Creole and Spanish) of our families to translate when needed. ● The student/parent handbook and annual report are available in three languages. ● We currently have report cards in three languages; Spanish, Creole and Amharic.
Students eligible for free or reduced lunch (low income/economically disadvantaged)	
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>(a) CHART data</u></p> <p>School percentage: 5.8% Third Quartile: 18%</p> <p>The school’s attrition rate is <u>below</u> third quartile percentages.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">(b) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Below median and third quartile: no enhanced/additional strategies needed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visiting subsidized and low-income housing in Cambridge to communicate Banneker’s specific wish to include all children regardless of their economic status, as expressed in the school’s mission; all students receive free breakfast and lunch. ● The school also supplies all materials for learning. ● Most field trips are paid for by the school and major trips such as the 6th grade DC trip and the 5th grade trip to Nature’s Classroom can be subsidized by fundraising and donations.

<p>Students who are sub-proficient</p>	<p>(d) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Using printed and web-based materials to communicate our efforts and successes in reaching all children, including news that we provide intervention in all grades to help those struggling with reading and math. ● The school also has homework club and an MCAS prep after school program. ● We promote these services on our website as well.
<p>Students at risk of dropping out of school</p>	<p>(e) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Working with all staff and parents in making the learning experience diverse to reach all learning styles for children to keep them excited about learning. ● By keeping school engaging, fun and safe we hope that our children go on to further their education.
<p>Students who have dropped out of school</p>	<p>(f) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We work with children in many ways, academically, and socially to instill a love for education and learning. ● If a student is having social issues, we have a full-time school counselor that works with them either alone or with small groups to address their needs.
<p>Other subgroups of students who should be targeted to eliminate the achievement gap</p>	<p>(g) Continued 2020-2021 Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We continue to reach out to area organizations, including other social service nonprofits, our city’s social service and education departments, the business community, and the media, to share our story and inform as many people as possible of our school, and mission and vision. ● This year we have hired an external partner to help spread the word regarding our achievements and to reach more children interested in the Banneker.

Appendix C - School and Student Data Tables

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC AND SUBGROUP INFORMATION		
Race/Ethnicity	# of students	% of entire student body
African-American	265	78%
Asian	6	2%
Hispanic	38	11%
Native American	1	.001%
White	9	3%
Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander	2	.005%
Multi-race, non-Hispanic	17	5%
Special education	55	16%
Limited English proficient	15	4%
Low income	206 358 CEP	61%

For more details please refer to official school record located at the link below

<http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/profiles/student.aspx?orgcode=04200000&orgtypecode=5&>

ADMINISTRATIVE ROSTER FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR			
Name, Title	Brief Job Description	Start date	End date
Executive Director Sherley Bretous	Instructional and organizational leader, manages all staff, responsible for educational quality	1/1/1997	
Director of Support Services Kathleen Horrocks	Oversees all support services, ensures compliance, manages the support team	9/30/1996	6/21
Business and Operations Manager MaryLynn Peters Chu	Oversees the financial and operational health and viability of the school and Human Resources	4/12/2021	

Dir. of Innovation, Technology & Digital Learning Yeasmin Aqid	Oversees technical infrastructure, resources, support staff, integration	5/5/2021	
Coordinator of Science and Engineering Eugenie Williams	Oversees STEM school development, science instructional quality, curriculum, and professional development	8/28/2013	
Executive Assistant Sharon Lombara	Supports the Executive Director, manages enrollment, student information, state reports, transportation, lunch program, & data.	7/6/1998	6/30

TEACHERS AND STAFF ATTRITION 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR				
	# Last day of 2020-2021 school year	Departures during 2020-2021	Departures at the end of school year	Reason(s) for Departure
Teachers/ Teacher Associates	33.8	0	2	1-Left for a non teaching position. 1- Relocated
Other Staff	22	1	5	1- Left in April for a new position 4- Retirements in June 1- Went back to school

Governance

BOARD AND COMMITTEE INFORMATION	
Number of commissioner approved board members as of August, 2020	7
Minimum number of board members in approved by-laws	7
Maximum number of board members in approved by-laws	15
Number of board committee members who are neither trustees nor school employees during the 2020-2021 school year (If not applicable, enter NA.)	N/A

BOARD MEMBERS FOR THE 2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR				
Name	Position on The Board	Committee affiliation(s)	Number of terms served	Length of each term (including date of election and expiration)
Deborah Del Dotto	Chair	Executive Committee, HR	< 3	01/2014-04/2021
Shane Buker	Co-Chair Treasurer	Finance/Real Estate	2	10/2016-10/2028
Jenepher Gooding	Clerk	Clerk	1	11/2017-11/2029
Janel Granum	Trustee	HR Committee	1>	11//17-11/2029
Josiane Julmeus	Trustee	Trustee	1	11/2017-11/2029
Linda Tucker	Trustee	STEM	3>	10/2011-10/2023
Tirsit Habetariam	Parent Rep		1	11/01/19-11/01/21

2020 – 2021 Board of Trustees (Remote) Meetings			
Date	Topic	Date	Topic
8/12/20	Plans to Reopen School	1/21/21	Student Opportunity Plan
9/24/20	Board Goals	2/25/21	Charter Renewal
10/22/20	Approve Audit	3/25/21	Technology Plan
11/19/20	School Update-COVID	4/29/21	Director’s Goals
12/10/20	Hybrid/Remote Students	5/27/21	Budget/Business/Finance

***Meetings are open to the public and are held on Thursday in the Ogletree library beginning at 6:00pm.** During Covid meetings were held remotely.

Amendments to the Charter	There were no amendments to the Charter in 2020-2021.
Complaints	There were no official complaints received by the Board of Trustees in 2020-2021. However, in early June 2021 a parent filed a complaint with DESE that is currently being addressed.

Oversight	<p>The Board maintained an appropriate level of oversight in 2020-2021. It monitored academic and financial performance through monthly updates at Board meetings.</p> <p>As part of a comprehensive Executive Director evaluation process, the Board solicited feedback directly from staff, the leadership team, all trustees, and reviewed findings from the Banneker staff and parent surveys.</p>
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Board Planning

- In 2020-2021, the Board of Trustees set goals for itself in ten areas:

Board Goals

- **Quorum at every meeting;** The Board achieved this goal.
- **Board Participation;** The Board did not attend, nor did the school have any activities to attend, because of Covid.
- **Fiscal Management;** Manage a balanced budget and review financial reports before meetings. The budget will then be presented no later than the April Board meeting and approved no later than the May Board meeting. The Board met this goal.
- **Ensure we receive a clean audit.** This goal was partially met, there was one finding in the Audit.
- **Maintain at least 7-15 trustees on the Board;** This goal was changed to maintain at least seven to fifteen trustees on the Board.
- **Evaluate the Executive Director;** Ensure annual goals for, and evaluate the Executive Director. This goal has been met.
- **Ensure a mid-year and end of the year staff survey.** This goal has been met.
- **Ensure continuity in the Board Governance team-** This is an ongoing goal and it was met this year.
- **Ensure that all trustees contribute financially to either the Banneker Foundation or school -**This goal has been met.
- **Attend STEAMS Expo on June 8, 2021.** This goal was not met due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Board met its goals through its ongoing oversight work including:

- Creating a balanced budget.
- Reviewing monthly financials.
- Setting a goal for local students (Cambridge) enrollment and monitoring attrition.

Appendix D - Additional Required Information

Position	Name	No Change/ New/Open Position
Board of Trustees Chairperson New Board Chair	Deb DelDotto Lin Tucker	Resigned New
Charter School Leader	Sherley Bretous	No Change
Assistant Charter School Leader	N/A	
Special Education Director	Kathleen Horrocks Kamlawatee Simpson	Retired New
MCAS Test Coordinator	Molander Etienne	No Change
SIMS Coordinator/ Contact New Staff	Sharon Lombara Shumi Jahan	Retired New
English Language Learner Director New Staff	Kathleen Horrocks Kamlawatee Simpson	Retired New
School Business and Operations Manager	MaryLynn Peters Chu	New

Facilities	Dates of Occupancy
21 Notre Dame Ave, Cambridge, MA	September 1996 - Present

There have been no Facilities changes for the 2020-2021 School Year.

Applications for 2021 School Year

Tentative student application deadline and lottery date for students who are interested in enrolling for the 2020-2021 school year.

Action	Date(s)
Student Application Deadline	Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Lottery	Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Cambridge Enrollments-Banneker’s goal is to increase Cambridge enrollments over time. However, many of Banneker’s Cambridge families move during the student’s time at Banneker. Cambridge enrollments reflect our emphasis on the Cambridge community. The overall enrollment numbers for SY 20/21 Cambridge 190= 56% Boston 47=14% Other 101= 30%