



**The Franklin School of Innovation
Board Meeting Notes - 10/14/2025 6:00pm
In Person - 21 Innovation Drive, Spanish Room**

Our Mission:

The Franklin School of Innovation is preparing the next generation of leaders, capable of solving problems and participating effectively and ethically as local and global citizens. Through challenging academics, real-world learning, and community engagement, our students discover their potential, develop persistence, and recognize the value of others. Our graduates are ready for the future they will create.

Board Responsibilities:

We ensure The Franklin School of Innovation's compliance to its contract with the NC Department of Public Instruction, set and monitor the implementation of school policies, manage the school's annual budget and financial planning, and hire and evaluate the performance of our school's Executive Director.

The Board develops and drives the School's strategic plan and provides appropriate governance.

Agenda Item

CALL TO ORDER The meeting shall be brought to order by the Board Chair, Al Glicksberg, at 6:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL The Board Chair took roll of members present: Al Glicksberg, Ashley Fisher-Tranese, Kelly Roark, Melanie Stowell, Sonya Strange, Jim Davidson, Beth Russo, Rebecca Hecht, Anthony Lynch

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Shall the Board approve the Agenda Items? Motion by Ashley, Second by Melanie, Vote: unanimous, to approve agenda.

CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES Shall the Board approve the minutes of the **September 9, 2025 Board Meeting** Motion by Ashley, Second by Kelly. Vote: 7 to approve unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT This agenda item is included for the purpose of giving anyone in attendance the opportunity to comment on a non-agenda or agenda item with the Board. There will be a three-minute time limit per person. The audience is not to applaud nor demonstrate disapproval for the comments made. The Board may respond asking for clarification only.

Agenda Item

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

- Summary of Activities
 - Review of Strategic Goals Report: Monthly report determines number of students paid for from the state and local allotments. Projected at 745 this year, min funding would be for 744 students. Hurricane had outsized impact on last year's numbers (last year's number was 683). Demographic report: Overall percentage is roughly 30% of students who have a known learning disability. Growth in English language learners population and Hispanic student population is now 10% (to better mirror population of Buncombe County).
 - Celebrations: Blue Ridge Athletic Champions! Regular Season Champions for HS Soccer
 - FSI won Niche #1 Charter School in AVL area
 - Expedition planning underway
- EL Credentialing application will be submitted by Oct 31
- Enrollment & hiring
 - 1 new facility position filled, and one open
 - 1 teacher on parental leave (with long term sub in place)
- Budget:
 - State has not adopted a budget—current per pupil amount from DPI: \$7419 = total initial allotment of \$5,378,806 based on 718 students (no change). Present budget shortfall of \$36,941 from budgeted amount. Spending is on track.
- Glow:
 - Will submit grant for behavioral funding (due 10/31), competitive grant
 - Habitat for Humanity Student Build underway (2nd build day today)
- Quick touch base:
 - Online database for funding—Grant Advance, pros include the research short cut, intuitive, and AI-powered form prep. Recommendation is to fund then first year for exploration. Beth to explore avenues but Michelle has ability in allotment to fund if appropriate.
 - Giving Tuesday/Network for Good—one page newsletter a week, spotlight on activities, themed. Giving Tuesday programming still on track.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Finances report: Two months off and submitting audit report at end of October & will send catch up reports. Bond reserves will be present as cushion in emergency.
- 2025-26 Budget Update: No changes.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

Refresh on core priorities to guide committee work this year. Subcommittee projects as dictated by task items.

- Fundraising: “Giving Tuesday” discussion happened separately, in conjunction with newsletter work and AI-powered grant tool.
- Should always be ongoing (Finance, Governance, School Improvement). Document review and policy edits will need constant care. First project will be policy interactivity, to shorten handbook.
- Arts programming/performance space: working with current staff and present space to build multi-year plan to build out environment. Potential need for subcommittee to look at funding and driving committee.

INTRODUCTION TO POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBER GUESTS

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel

Motion to go into closed session at 7:07 pm for personnel discussions; made by Al, seconded by Beth, unanimous approval. Closed session ended at 7:10 pm.

Motion to approve Michelle’s hiring and to bring Abby onto the FSI Board of Directors made by Beth, second by Jim , unanimous approval.

ADJOURNMENT 1. Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.? Motion by Al, second by Rebecca, vote, unanimous vote to approve