



## The Franklin School of Innovation Board Meeting Minutes – 12/15/2020

### 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 Items and Votes	Discussion
<p><b>CALL TO ORDER</b> The meeting shall be brought to order by the Board Chair, AH at 6:03p.m.</p> <p><b>ROLL CALL</b> The Board Chair took roll of members present: ABJ, AH, BC, KC, JGG, ML, DP, SR, AG (at 6:12pm) Staff: Michelle Vruwink Multiple guests</p>	
<p><b>APPROVAL OF AGENDA</b> Shall the Board approve the Agenda Items? Motion by KC Second by BC Vote: unanimous to approve agenda</p> <p><b>CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES</b> Shall the Board approve the minutes of the <b>November Board Meeting</b>? Motion by AH Second by DP Vote: unanimous to approve</p>	
<p><b>DIRECTORS UPDATE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of Activities</li> <li>• Update on Enrollment</li> <li>• Update on Academic Learning in Plan C++</li> </ul>	<p>Enrollment is holding steady. 6 students withdrew since last meeting. FSI has added an online platform to monitor student activity to enhance student safety; the system is being tailored for sensitivity.</p> <p>Budget is on track as projected. There is a focus on making sure that COVID relief funds are appropriately deployed before the spending deadline.</p>

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	<p>PPP loan forgiveness application is open and staff will work on this soon.</p> <p>The annual audit is complete and submitted to the state.</p> <p>A part-time school nurse has been hired and funds are projected to cover the expense of this addition through the end of the school year.</p> <p>The federal program audit, which comes every 4 years, is due to commence in Feb. 2021. Staff have reached out to DPI to begin preparing for the audit.</p> <p>Open enrollment starts 1/1 after the conclusion of winter break.</p> <p>1/4/21 is a remote instruction day. 1/6/21 blood drive</p> <p>Student fairs for other local charters are scheduled in January.</p> <p>Giving Tuesday was a success and exceeded our \$25,000 goal. Cross Country had a great season and did well in all of the meets.</p> <p>Much support has been received for staff appreciation, and a donation drive exceeded requests.</p> <p>Counselors have run holiday gift drives and was able to distribute 3-4 gifts per child served.</p>
<b>North Carolina Access Fund Application</b>	<p>Goals are to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged children who attend high-quality charter schools, to expand charter school access/numbers. Definition for educationally disadvantaged includes multiple categories. Could cover designing programming, providing transportation, lunch assistance. Due 3/1. School requirement is to adopt a weighted lottery that includes priority status for educationally disadvantaged students.</p>
<b>Goals for this meeting / Board Priorities</b>	<p>Board must weigh simultaneous risks of health, mental health, access to education and school sustainability.</p> <p>See attached document “Board Votes/Motions” which outlines the COVID-related decisions made by the FSI board and was presented for board consideration and as a reminder of prior discussion/decisions.</p> <p>Three board members met with Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director and Dr. Jennifer Mullendore, Medical Director</p>

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	<p>to gather information and resources pertinent to school reopenings.</p> <p>Today's purpose is to define the metrics and conditions that would trigger a return to more in person instruction.</p>
<p><b>Overview of FSI's Plan B and Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Motion to approve the staff recommendation for Plan B with a tentative start date of 2/1/21 if the metrics established by the board are met. Motion by AH, Second by KC, approved by unanimous consent.</b></p>	<p>Michelle Vruwink presented an overview for Plan B logistics.</p> <p>Under Plan C, more students are failing classes, and children who are economically disadvantaged or are students of color are failing classes at higher rates as compared to last year.</p> <p>Classes would have approximately 6-9 students in Plan B. Phase 1 is a half-day in person schedule with all enrichments/electives remaining virtual. The half days serve to minimize transitions, avoid mixing of students any more than necessary and avoiding lunch on campus. The Plan follows key recommendations from the NC Strong Schools Toolkit and CDC guidelines, to include planning for sanitizing hands, upgrading air filtration, implementing health screenings and other measures.</p>
<p><b>UPDATE ON COVID and Metrics for Re-opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers and discussion of the conditions that would trigger a transition to Plan B</li> </ul> <p><b>Motion that FSI moves to Plan B if a 5% or lower positivity rate is present for Buncombe County for a 14 day rolling average and will return to Plan C if the rate reaches 9% for 7 day average. Michelle will retain authority to return the school to remote learning if circumstances require, at her discretion for a period of up to 5 school days. Motion made by DP, Seconded by SR.</b>  <b>AG, JGG, ML, DP, SR, AH - Yes</b>  <b>BC-No</b>  <b>ABJ, KC-Abstain.</b>  <b>Motion carries.</b></p>	<p>Options considered were 3% metric or 5% metrics with a geographical area of either Buncombe County or WNC Region to trigger a return to Plan B. The time period discussed was a 2 week rolling average. 8% and 9% were considered as options to trigger a return to Plan C.</p>
<p><b>CLOSED SESSION –</b>  <b>Motion to enter closed session at 8:44pm by AH, seconded by BC approved by unanimous consent.</b></p> <p><b>Motion to exit closed session at 8:49pm by ABJ, second by AH, approved by unanimous consent.</b></p>	

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<b>ML motions to approve the hiring of one new staff position, seconded by SR, approved by unanimous consent.</b>	
<b>ADJOURNMENT</b> 1. Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:53p.m.? Motion by ABJ Second by SR Vote: unanimous to approve	

Respectfully submitted,  
April Burgess-Johnson, Secretary