



The Franklin School of Innovation
Board Meeting Minutes –
2/9/2021 [Meeting Link](#)

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 and Votes | Discussion |
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| <p>CALL TO ORDER The meeting was brought to order by the Board Chair, AG, at <u>6:01</u>p.m.</p> <p>ROLL CALL The Board Chair took roll of members present: AG, DP, AH, ABJ, ML, JGG, KC, SR, BC (6:14pm) Staff: Michelle Vruwink</p> | |
| <p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA Shall the Board approve the Agenda Items? Motion by <u>AG</u> Second by <u>ML</u> Vote: <u>unanimous</u> to approve agenda</p> <p>CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES Shall the Board approve the minutes of the January 12 Board Meeting? Motion by <u>DP</u> Second by <u>KC</u> Vote: <u>unanimous</u> to approve</p> | |
| <p>PUBLIC COMMENT This agenda item is included for the purpose of giving anyone in attendance the opportunity to comment on a non-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. No action may be taken at this meeting on any issue raised.</p> | <p>Public comment offered by Lora Hawkins, who said staff are confused about the metric for return to in person learning. Brings forward concern about losing teachers.</p> <p>Public comment offered by Lindsay Furst who commended Lora Hawkins for defending her dissertation while keeping up with her other FSI responsibilities.</p> |

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| <p>DIRECTORS UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of Activities • Update on Enrollment • Update on Budget & Facilities | <p>Enrollment currently at 645 students. 12 students left in January, but 13 enrolled.</p> <p>Open enrollment is underway. 176 applications so far for next school year; goal is 400.</p> <p>Special needs funding from state arrived at \$46,000.</p> <p>Several grants were submitted to help offset costs of nurse and student support teacher. These were approved.</p> <p>Staff working on an Access grant.</p> <p>Costs anticipated on needed accommodations for staff when learning transitions to in-person instruction.</p> <p>Audit interviews were completed.</p> <p>Events: Counseling team put together parent events which launch this week. Mid-year review with school improvement team is coming this month. Info sessions are happening. FSI is required to participate in year-end state testing (ACT on 3/23 and pre-ACT the following week). AP exams in May, then end of grade testing during the last 10 days of school.</p> <p>Glows: Facebook/Instagram posts about college acceptances for seniors.</p> <p>Certificate of occupancy is moving forward.</p> <p>Staff requests that the board support advocacy to get teachers vaccinated.</p> <p>18% of FSI students were failing one or more classes at the end of semester 1. Students of color were at 25% and low-wealth students were 33.5% failing one or more classes. This matches similar trends locally and nationally.</p> |
| <p>Board Development Committee Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request of Board Members | <p>The Board Development Committee is hoping to recruit 2-4 new members by June to the FSI board. Current board members are asked to email ABJ with new member suggestions. The skills/attributes prioritized will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fundraising experience -Increasing racial diversity -Prior board service experience -Financial expertise -Student leadership -Teaching experience -Economic diversity -HR expertise |
| <p>UPDATE ON COVID</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metrics and discussion of transitioning to Plan B | <p>Gov. Cooper, State Health Director, Chair of State Board of Education recommend that schools reopen for in-person learning. Grades 6-12 may reopen with social distancing. The Strong Schools Toolkit has been updated, highlighting that children are less likely to acquire and spread COVID or to have severe cases. All other local schools are</p> |

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| <p>ABJ makes motion to have the board write a letter endorsing vaccinations for teachers. JGG seconded. Motion passed unanimously. AH volunteered to draft the letter.</p> | <p>planning to move into Plan B in the near future. Additional CDC guidelines are forthcoming this week. Buncombe County positivity rate is 5.6%, state at 8.6%.</p> <p>Staff have resurveyed parents to prepare for shift to Plan B. Staff are getting training on the safety protocols and to prepare for the transition next Wednesday.</p> <p>Prior metric is to return to in person learning 2 weeks after reaching the previously determined metric of 5% positivity in Buncombe County. Staff has the existing authority to approve 5 days fully remote if conditions require that action.</p> <p>Staff is working to have an on-site vaccine clinic when Group 3 vaccination begins. Some statewide advocacy has been happening to prioritize teacher vaccination.</p> <p>The board will send a letter advocating for teacher vaccination. Individual members could also do the same.</p> |
| <p>FMLA/FFCRA Policy Review</p> <p>ABJ makes motion to extend the 2 week paid quarantine leave, but not the 10 week family leave and to ask staff to draft a revised policy reflecting these changes. This temporary policy amendment will expire at the end of the school year unless renewed. DP seconds. Approved by unanimous consent.</p> | <p>Last Spring, the board adopted policies to comply with CARES Act requirements extending paid sick leave for people who needed to quarantine due to COVID. The requirement ended on 12/31/20. We have the option to continue to extend that policy but there is no funding to support the extra leave.</p> |
| <p>Other business</p> <p>AH made the motion to enter closed session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by KC, approved by unanimous consent.</p> | <p>Karen has been working with AB Tech to explore options to bring in hot lunches to the school once in-person learning resumes. The board commended this action.</p> |
| <p>CLOSED SESSION – Personnel</p> <p>AH made the motion to enter closed session to discuss a personnel matter, seconded by KC, approved by unanimous consent</p> <p>AH motioned to enter closed session, DP seconded, unanimous consent.</p> | <p>No action taken.</p> |
| <p>ADJOURNMENT The Board adjourned the meeting at 7:52p.m. Motion by <u>AH</u> Second by <u>BC</u> Vote: <u>unanimous</u> vote to approve</p> | |

Respectfully submitted,
April Burgess-Johnson, Secretary