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**The Franklin School of Innovation**

**Board Meeting Minutes – 3/20/20**

**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.

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| **Agenda Item and Votes** | **Discussion** |
| **CALL TO ORDER** The meeting shall be brought to order by the BC, seconded ABJ at 12:03 p.m.  **ROLL CALL** The Board Chairman took roll of members present: DP, ABJ, AG, BC, PF, JG, SR, AH, staff Michelle Vruwink |  |
| **AGENDA**  1) Briefing on the steps we have taken to transition to virtual/digital learning  2) Proposed plan for school through spring break, pending any guidance/directives from local, state, or federal government |  |
| **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. | None |
| **DIRECTORS UPDATE**   * **Coronavirus Briefing**   **VOTE: Propose working digitally until Spring Break and then take break as planned, then to return to a digital platform until or unless additional guidance is received from the state. Motion: ABJ, Second AH, unanimous approval**  **VOTE: Beyond the Bell staff will be assigned to alternate duties and asked to work during the period of closure or digital learning and will be paid for those hours. Motion: ABJ, second SR, unanimous approval.** | Planning began before school closure, with initial plan to have 3 phases:   1. Preparation and communication 2. Non-FSI local case 3. FSI case   The executive order from Governor Cooper which closed schools came before plan was finalized, so we are no considering a plan to take us through April 10.  Approximately 140 devices distributed to children who needed them, needs were identified via survey. Students practiced remote login on Friday before school was cancelled. Everyone in need has been connected to free or low-cost internet service. One student lives in a remote area and has to travel to a local hotspot.  Food/meals are being provided. Teachers have been trained on tech platforms to support online instruction. Detailed expectations regarding digital lessons have been distributed. A database of recommended digital tools has been developed.  Daily communication has been maintained with parents, teachers and students. A focus is helping people obtain accurate and factual information.  A successful blood drive was hosted this week, while maintaining appropriate social distancing.  Plans are being adjusted on an ongoing basis as needed. There is a focus on equity issues and being proactive to preempt any bullying issues that could arise during this time.  Three days this week were counted as teacher workdays based on DPI guidance. Staff received a memo and a webinar briefing, but are still waiting on additional clarity. So far, the information is that schools are closed to in-person instruction, but the buildings can remain open to staff or community need. Staff were encouraged to plan for long-term school closure with regards to instruction and staffing. There is not current information about whether the instructional hours/days requirements will be waived because the General Assembly has not met to consider.  Instructional focus this week has included a continued push to keep crews meeting to support student connections. All students have been asked to log in and initiate contact with teachers. Lists are being maintained of students with whom the school has had no contact. The Student Safety Team will reach out to these students.  Next week’s plan is to launch Monday with full online lessons in every class. Students will take the classes they will normally take during a given school day.  Staff suggests continuing with digital learning through Spring Break, then to keep the existing Spring Break days. We will count 2 days last week as attended days, and each day until Spring Break.  So far, we have continued to pay all staff. FSI has not communicated future intentions to Beyond the Bell staff. A challenge is that there is no current Beyond the Bell revenue. Staff recommends we reassign those staff to other tasks, such as tutoring, facility work, making connections with children who are not regularly in touch with the school.  Examining virtual options to facilitate connections, such as a virtual talent show, an art contest, a prom alternative, a graduation alternative.  Michelle will distribute some opportunities for board involvement and support.  This closure is impacting open enrollment numbers.  Staff are in touch with other charter school leaders.  Staff are working to ensure continuity of care for students needing counseling services via virtual counseling. |
| **ADJOURNMENT** Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at 12:43 p.m. Motion by PF Second by BC Vote: unanimous vote to approve |  |