



**The Franklin School of Innovation
Board Meeting Minutes –4/13/2021**

ZOOM Meeting Link: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87273425268?pwd=OEtwSC9jR1NQcndlcTYzVzE4N3JyZz09>

Meeting ID: 872 7342 5268

Passcode: 687077

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
<p>CALL TO ORDER The meeting shall be brought to order by the Board Chair, AG at 6:04p.m.</p> <p>ROLL CALL The Board Chair took roll of members present: AG, AH, ML, BC, ABJ, SR (at 6:06pm), KC at (6:06pm)</p> <p>Not Present: KC, JGG</p> <p>Staff: Michelle Vruwink</p>	
<p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA Shall the Board approve the Agenda Items? Motion by BC Second by ML Vote: unanimous to approve agenda</p> <p>CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES Shall the Board approve the minutes of the March 25 Board Meeting? Motion by BC Second by ML Vote: unanimous to approve</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.

Jon Blalock is the Program Director at Camp Lakey Gap. He has worked in the autism community for 15 years. Jon has worked in numerous local leadership roles, introduced himself as potential board member.

Sarah Dickson, works at Nature Center. Asheville Native, FSI parent for 4 years. She has volunteered with FSI in marketing and events and introduced herself as a potential board member.

ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

- Summary of Activities
- Update on Enrollment
- Update on Budget & Facilities

Enrollment steady. Discipline remains at an all time low. The lottery was held last night; there were 50 people in attendance. There was a lottery needed for grades 5-10. The waitlist is the largest ever, with 112 students. 62 students who were offered admission via the lottery have already accepted, 8 have declined. Student enrollment retention levels are strong this year as compared to last. 3 information sessions are coming up soon; many people wait to hear about the lottery results before attending info sessions or tours. Tours slots are well-filled.

Transition to Plan A has gone as smoothly as possible and the screening lines have been manageable. Students are spending a lot of time outside, which has been supported by the lovely weather recently.

Student-Led Conferences will happen this month, as well as 8th grade passages, School Improvement Team meeting, and High School Theatre performances. The Mud Run will be May 2. The Senior prom will be May 8, held outdoors. Graduation on May 28, outdoors at Mars Hill University Stadium.

Board Support needed on teacher position recruitment (all except science).

An updated bid has been sought on the second floor finishing. Certificate of Occupancy has finally been issued, so the loan can be moved forward and the reserve/contingency funds can be released.

Staff uptake on vaccines has been strong.

The Governor has issued a mandate to require 150 hours of summer instruction for students; unclear how this applies to charters or if funding is available. FSI is developing a summer instruction plan, with a specific focus on math and expeditions. Some existing/forthcoming funding may offset or eliminate some of the associated costs.

<p>2021 - 2022 SCHOOL CALENDAR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt <p>Motion to approve as presented with understanding that staff can make modifications if needed by AH, second by ABJ. Approved by unanimous consent.</p>	<p>Calendar was formed using the same process as the year before last; no new state mandates regarding calendars. The calendar as proposed has a focus on more days in the second semester. The calendar is a little over the mandatory instruction hours, with 3 make up days throughout the year and 3 more options at the end of the year. 4 workdays. Early release every Wednesday except for the last two weeks of school when testing is taking place. First day August 18, two weeks for Winter Break, May 31 is last day (unless weather make up days are needed). Aligns breaks with Asheville City (Buncombe not yet released).</p>
<p>BOND FINANCING RESEARCH</p>	<p>BC has done some research on this topic. The school has grown and is approaching capacity. We need to find ways to get the second floor of the building complete. Vannoy estimates 6-8 months to finish out the space. The space is likely to be needed (based on enrollment expansion) by Fall 2022. A group called Charter School Capital reached out and offered a webinar; they have partnered with a nonprofit to help charter schools develop and expand—this partnership has developed a “no cost bond.” Bonds typically have high fees to establish. This group bundles schools together for a bond process, which enables them to have a larger pool of potential investors. If FSI was able to fund through bonds, it could reduce the requirement currently in place from the bank/loan-holder to retain as much in reserve (currently \$1M+). BC and Michelle are continuing to investigate this option, and will also investigate options with FSI’s current bank.</p>
<p>BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT</p>	<p>Two potential board members were present tonight and additional candidates are anticipated next month. The committee had recruitment slate of 8-9 members. The committee will refine the application form, then send to potential candidates to complete. The committee will present a slate of proposed board members at the June meeting for vote. Orientation will happen in July/August and new members will begin their terms in August.</p>
<p>SCHOOL LUNCHES</p>	<p>Karen is working on helping develop a plan to bring in a school lunch program. She would like someone to support her in those efforts to research programs. Michelle will dedicate some staff time to this effort. Some investigation is happening on cost to develop a prep kitchen.</p>
<p>CLOSED SESSION – Personnel</p> <p>Motion to enter by ABJ, seconded by AG, approved by unanimous consent.</p> <p>Motion to exit by AG, second by BC, unanimous to approve.</p>	<p>Hires approved for Simeon Gibson, Jennifer Lipsey-Edwards, Grace Tinsley into temporary positions through the end of the school year.</p>

Motion to approve new hires by ML, second by KC, unanimous approval.	
ADJOURNMENT Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:36p.m.? Motion by AG Second by SR Vote: unanimous vote to approve	

Respectfully submitted,
April Burgess-Johnson, Secretary