



**The Franklin School of Innovation  
Board Meeting Agenda –9-10-2024 6:00pm  
In Person - 21 Innovation Drive, Spanish Room  
Indoor masks optional**

**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.

**CALL TO ORDER** The meeting shall be brought to order by the Board Chair, \_\_\_ at \_\_\_ p.m.

**ROLL CALL** The Board Chair took roll of members present: Jim Davidson, Anthony Lynch, Beth Russo, Jon Blalock, Al Glicksberg, Ashley Fisher-Tranese, Jamie Grob, Rebecca Hecht, Melanie Stowell

Visitor Sonya Strange (interested in board)

Paula Dowd, High School Principal

Tony Freeman, Middle School Teacher

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

**CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES** Shall the Board approve the minutes of the **August 13, 2024 Board Meeting** Motion by Jim Second by Ashley Vote: unanimous to approve

**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.

## GUEST ATTENDEES

HS Principal - Paula Dowd

MS Principal - Tony Freeman

Q & A

Tony Freeman - trending positive since his time in position, new hires are doing well. An exciting area of growth is coming in the form of self-selected, intensive learning opportunities at the end of the semester that Tony is organizing. This idea is consistent with the EL (Expeditionary Learning) model, which FSI uses as a guidepost for its operations.

Paula Dowd - examining alignment of courses offered and core curriculum. Also trying to ensure that Crew continues to serve its primary functions of creating community and opportunities or communication and connection.

## ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE

- Summary of Activities

○ Enrollment - Dropped (currently 727). Many spots available for 5th grade; a few spots across most grades

○ Activities

### Still working on EL credentialing

-Ashley asked if there are any action items for the board for this year's academic rigor focus. MV responded that the process is not at a phase where specific input from board is required.

**Motion by Rebecca Hecht (second by Jon) to empower Michelle to to finalize the policy based on the largely finalized draft, with the sign off of our school attorney: Unanimous in favor**

**Motion by Melanie (second by Ashley) to authorize Michelle to enact Service Animal Policy as discussed with school atty. Unanimous in favor**

**Motion by Jamie (second by Beth) to send a resolution calling on the NC legislature to increase funding as presented in draft in email from Michelle, AND to approve MOA with Watua, Inc. for OCS: Unanimous in favor**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

- Finances report (given by MV in Bill's absence)
- Budget Update

**What is our capacity for financing the soccer field without fundraising**

## BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- On-going organization of Committees for 24-25 school year, updates, meetings, goal-setting
  - Finance - FSI has a healthy savings account in case per-student allotment is less than expected
  - Governance
  - Development -JB mentioned need to prioritize Treasurer understudy, other board recruitment around professional skills (law, accounting); Rebecca working on welcome guide (open to input)
  - Facilities-soccer field presentation
  - Fundraising - Ashley has spoken with venues for donation/rental, looking to raise money for theater/performance arts
- Jim mentioned fundraising for the soccer field, things like bleachers

**CLOSED SESSION** – Personnel

**ADJOURNMENT** 1. Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.? Motion by Al, Second by Jamie Vote:  
Unanimous vote to approve