

FSI Board of Directors Called Meeting, Oct. 14, 2024

Michelle Vruwink gave a briefing to the board and other members of the FSI community concerning opening the school after the impacts of Hurricane Helene.

Buncombe County has been very cooperative with Charter Schools, including FSI, regarding efforts to get children back in school.

Non-Potable Water started flowing east of the French Broad River today. The city has given a rough estimate that water will be flowing more broadly throughout the city by the end of the week.

Oct. 28 is the preliminary date being discussed for opening schools with non-potable water.

Buncombe County is working on a distribution plan for Potable Water for all schools.

They have recommended that schools start by providing partial (4-hour) days for the first week; and only for instructional time (not extracurricular activities.)

There will be a cost associated with water distribution.

The plan is to open with transportation in place. There is also a plan to immediately reinstate the nutritional program.

Port-a-Potties are on site, along with a hand-washing station.

All but one student has been accounted for.

Staff have been accounted for as well. There have been no reports of loss of life, although many people have sustained major damage to homes, possessions, and businesses.

There is no update on the calendar year, although MV estimates that FSI will not have to extend the school year throughout the whole of summer.

MV opened up the meeting for questions and discussion:

Paula Dowd commented that the HS will have a modified plan by tomorrow.

McKinney Gough asked about reinstating electives; MV responded that electives are included in the planning.

Sagan Pizzigrilli asked about notifying families about the FSI timeline. MV has a draft, and she anticipates that media will begin to report on the information contained herein.

Donnie Stahlke asked about the Middle School schedule. MV wants to poll teachers about the final schedule.

Paula Dowd is meeting with HS Grade A level leads tomorrow.

Jim Davidson expressed appreciation for MV on behalf of the Board.

Teacher Work Day has not been scheduled, but MV is working on getting one on the calendar for next week.

Jon Blalock asked about additional guidance counselors, MV talked about a grant for such services and there are online resources available at no cost (Better Help, Gaggie)

Jessica Potter-Bowers asked about Q1 grades. MV said that Q1 should effectively end on 9/25 and weighted to account for Helene.

Jacob Schell asked about when to report back to FSI, MV is estimating Wednesday of next week (Oct. 23)

Al Glicksberg asked if there are any specific requests from the Board - not immediately.

Gina Raicovich asked about in-house child-care for staff. MV said she would make a plan to accommodate.

MV offered her laundry machine for use, but not full-service.