



**The Franklin School of Innovation
Board Meeting Minutes – 6-13-2023
In Person - 21 Innovation Drive (new building)- in the Music 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.

| Agenda Item |
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| <p>CALL TO ORDER The meeting shall be brought to order by the Board Chair, Al Glicksburg at _6:07__p.m.</p> |
| <p>ROLL CALL The Board Chair took roll of members present: Al Glickberg, Michael LePage, Jennifer Berry, Sara Dickson, Jamie Grinnell, Beth Russo, Melanie Stowell, Bill Hansen, Allison Sturtevant-Gilliam</p> |
| <p>APPROVAL OF AGENDA Shall the Board approve the Agenda Items? Motion by Sara Dickson Second by Bill Hansen ___ Vote: Unanimously voted to approve agenda</p> |
| <p>CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES Shall the Board approve the minutes of the May 9, 2023 Board Meeting Motion by Allison Sturtevant-Gilliam Second by Bill Hansen. Vote: Unanimously voted 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 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.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">ADMINISTRATORS UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust discussion on 2 statements Michelle presented to the Board. First is related to finances and budgets. The statement opposes Opportunity Vouchers expansion (removes all income limits for vouchers, redirects public school funds to private schools) and the salary structures for both new and experienced teachers lag well behind the rest of the country. Buncombe County Schools have adopted this resolution. Michael LePage made a motion to approve the statement, Beth Russo seconded. Motion Passed unanimously. Statement is in team drive. |

Agenda Item

- The second discussion revolved around the proposed NC SB49 “Parents Bill of Rights” and HB 187 “Equality in Education”. Bill of Rights restricts staff flexibility to support LGBTQ+ students and restricts instruction on gender identity and sexuality in grades K - 4. Equality in Education restricts honest discussions about history, including discussion of systemic racism. Both bills undermine the professionalism of teachers. Another robust discussion ensued around both the values FSI promotes, and the business/political implications of making public statements standing against these two bills. **Michael Lepage made a motion to approve statement in opposition to HB 187 and SB49. Jamie Grinnell seconded this motion. The motion passed unanimously. Statement is in team drive.**
- Enrollment is staying steady. Waitlist for 9th grade down to 13. currently 752. budget based on 730.
- **June 23-24 Budget proposal** as made: It is the last year with COVID relief funds; there are funds to roll over. Access Funds will have to be spent out next year as well (cannot be used for staff but can be used for contracts and items). This budget gives 2% increases to all teachers on top of other increases, and moves our lowest paid person to \$19.19 hourly (still below Living Wage). Lowest beginning teacher salary is better than the state pay scale. discussed ways to potentially match student led clubs fundraising efforts. **Bill Hansen made motion to accept as presented; Sarah Dickson seconded. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Personnel:** 2 middle school teachers are being interviewed, all other teaching positions are filled and contracted. Sending the entire Math team to EL training in July. Sadly our Nurse is resigning to relocate, recruitment will start soon. The Dean of Students has been hired and will begin in August. .
 - **Expanded lunch Program:** excited to expand the lunch program next year with assumption that it will pay for itself (it is budgeted for, but is projected to break even if not make profit. It will use paper products, and is based on a student choice model. Expected to serve 300 lunches with price average being \$4.00. Kudos to Deanna and Matt for their hard work. letter from Parent Crew requesting to become a committee arm of the Board, with separate board, bank account and avoids being a full-fledged PTO/PTA at this time.
 - **Parent Crew organization:** Discussion of a Parent Crew being a committee of the Board of Directors, with possible appointment of a board member as liaison to that committee or vice versa.
 - **Construction updates:** Construction is on schedule. New change order as required by Fire Marshall that adds a cell signal repeater. Mobile classrooms moving off campus, much furniture and salvageable materials have been donated to other organizations. A temporary easement is being signed to allow the next door neighbor’s property to have emergency access onto our property, this will also be needed for the grading process. The temporary easement will then only allow for emergency access requirements. Still looking for gym sponsorships. Michelle requested to purchase courtyard furnishings from 22-23 budget), approximately \$120,000.00. **Motion made by Bill Hansen to move that Board approves furniture expenditure, 2nded by Jamie Grinnell . Vote was unanimously approved.**
 - **School Funding-Charter vs. District:** Discussed the gap between district and charter school funding, largest gap is in federal funds. If this didn’t exist, we’d have an additional 1.4 million dollars in budget annually. We reviewed differences in House and State budget proposals this year. Currently 68% of the FSI annual budget is salaries and benefits.
 - **State budget updates:** expecting a 3% increase in allotment funds from the State. discussion related to discrepancies in first year salaries as mandated by the State of NC, versus FSI’s salaries structure which is higher. The teacher pay in NC is challenging to work with when working to recruit experienced teachers, especially from other (better paying) states.

Agenda Item

- **County budget updates:** expecting 5% increase in funding from Counties (this is assumed, budget won't be finalized until October 2023)
- **County teacher salaries:** Both City and County budgets asked for significant increases (averaged 10% increase).
- **Other:** This meeting was Michael Lepage's last meeting. His service, time and commitment to FSI is greatly appreciated.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT

- Nominating and Governance Committee -updates. No meetings have happened since the last BOD meeting. 2 people have approached with interest in joining the Board, no action taken. We will have an annual meeting in the future, date TBD for board installation.
- By-laws - update: no updates, although discussion about clarification of some details of our By-Laws regarding annual meeting and Board installation was had.
- Threat Assessment Policy Update: no updates
- Fundraising Committee - Capital Campaign & Feasibility Study: struggling to find a date for BOD retreat. working on strategic planning discussion (Sara) with WNC Nonprofit Pathways.
- DEI Committee: Meeting with Danae on June 30th, no other updates.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Finances report: see budget

CLOSED SESSION – Personnel Motion made Jamie Grinnell, Michael Lepage seconded. Unanimous vote to move into closed session at 7:53 PM.. Unanimous vote to move out of Closed session at 8:03 PM

ADJOURNMENT 1. Shall the Board adjourn the meeting at 8:04 ____p.m.? Motion by Michael Lepage, Seconded by Jamie Grinnell. **Vote to adjourn unanimously approved.**