MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL
November 30, 2017

Board members present: Annie Adams, Rudolph Austin, Natalie Deak Jaros, Ross Harold, Andrew Hutcher, Roberta Kelly, Rachel Klein, Joan Wicks, Gilda Wray

Others present: John Harrison York (FLI Leadership Team), Dani McPartlin (FLI Leadership Team), Jody Flowers (FLI Leadership Team), Rusty Slovenec (FLI Leadership Team). Dan Nee (FLI Teacher), Phaelyn Williams (FLI Teacher)

By phone: Katherine Brown. Ms. Brown did not vote on any matters put forth to the Board for a vote during the meeting.

Absent: Jon Drucker and Jay Hatfield

The Board meeting began at approximately 5:40 p.m. at Senator Investment Group and was called to order by Natalie Deak Jaros.

1. Ms. Deak Jaros and Andrew Hutcher welcomed all the Board meeting participants.

2. The Board then voted on the following item:

    a. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2017 meeting.*

3. Members of the Leadership Team delivered an update and answered questions from the Board regarding the following:

    a. The results of the November 2017 Benchmarks in Math and ELA. The Board discussed the detailed writeup provided regarding year-over-year growth on the Benchmarks on a grade-by-grade basis. Mr. York and Mr. Slovenec provided an overview of the process by which this year's Benchmarks were created by the teachers in collaboration with the Leadership Team. Teachers utilized a standardized approach which ensured a design for the Benchmarks that is consistent with the lesson planning for the school year. Significant Professional Development time and Professional Learning Community focus has been and will continue to be devoted to the Benchmarks throughout the school year.

    b. The school's Saturday Academy program. It was noted that this year's Saturday Academy will feature additional programs related to mindfulness and wellness, and that all instruction will be delivered by current or former FLI teachers.

c. The school's recent advocacy efforts and discussions with various members of the public regarding FLI's unique financial challenges as one of only four conversion charter schools in New York City. John Harrison York will continue to apprise the Board of these activities.

4. Phaelyn Williams, a 4th grade teacher at FLI, provided a detailed report on the school's Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This is the second year of the PLC initiative at FLI, and a number of enhancements have been made, including: grouping by grade clusters, an increased focus on both teachers' needs and students' results, facilitation by teaching staff on a rotating basis, integrated oversight by the Leadership Team and increased responsibilities and accountability for all. This year's program is very outcome-oriented and allows for teachers to leverage best practices and provide feedback to each other within and across grade clusters. A robust discussion followed.

5. Dan Nee, a 7th grade teacher at FLI, delivered an overview of FLI's participation in the New York City Department of Education's District-Charter Collaborative. FLI is partnered with another charter school and two district schools in a "quad" that will focus on Restorative Disciplinary Practices during its participation in the program, which will last through the 2018-19 school year. During the course of the program, the quad will engage in school visits, set goals for themselves, share best practices and provide feedback to each other. The program is very data-centric and outcome-oriented. An extensive discussion followed, covering the reading materials provided in the Board packet and FLI's specific goals related to Restorative Practices, which include increasing students' investment in FLI's Core Values and reducing the number of level 1 and 2 infractions. The Board requested a follow up report after the quad's visit to FLI in December.

6. Rudy Austin, on behalf of the Finance Committee, and Mr. York delivered the monthly finance report and discussed the material variances against the 2017-18 budget. The Board discussed the school's current enrollment. The Board voted on the following items:

   a. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously approved the transfer of up to $2 million from the school's Citibank account to the school's TD Bank account.*

   b. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously approved the closure of FLI's Citibank Money Market Account.*

7. On motion duly made, the Board moved to Executive Session at approximately 7:10 p.m.

   Personnel matters were discussed. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

The next Board meeting is expected to take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 11, 2018 at Godiva.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Brown

Katherine M. Brown
Secretary