MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL
January 23, 2019

Board Members present: Rudy Austin, Natalie Deak, Ross Harold, Jay Hatfield, Andy Hutcher, Roberta Kelly, Rachel Klein, Joan Wicks, Gilda Wray.

Others Present: John Harrison York (FLI Leadership Team), Rusty Slovenec (FLI Leadership Team), Jody Flowers (FLI Leadership Team).

By Telephone: Katherine Brown and Jon Drucker, who did not vote on any matters put forth to the Board for a vote during the meeting.

The Board meeting began at approximately 5:15 p.m. at FLI and was called to order by Natalie Deak.

1. Ms. Deak welcomed all of the Board meeting participants.

2. The Board voted on the following item:

    Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the November 2018 meeting.

3. On behalf of the Educational Accountability Working Group, Jody Flowers presented the working group's goals for the school year. A discussion followed regarding the written summary of the strategies and action items identified by the working group for both ELA and Math. Ms. Flowers and Rusty Slovenec answered questions from the Board and highlighted observations regarding inter-grade consistency, classroom pedagogy, lesson planning, classroom observations, the use of educational consultants, and specific grade-level opportunities and challenges. The strategies and action items set forth by the working group will also help to inform the work of the Professional Learning Communities. The working group will also focus on enhancing its own accountability and reporting framework for the full Board.

4. Ms. Flowers gave an update regarding enhancements to the third grade math program, including opportunities that were identified that would ensure better alignment with and a smoother transition from the second grade math program.

5. Mr. York gave a brief update about the school's Saturday Academy program, which will be the topic of a more in-depth discussion at a future Board meeting.

6. Rudy Austin, on behalf of the Finance Committee, and John Harrison York discussed the December monthly and year-to-date financials, reviewed the drivers behind the variances between the budgeted and actual results, and answered questions from the Board. The Board reviewed the status of various funds that were procured as a result of the school's advocacy work, all of which have been received. The Board discussed the school's advocacy strategy. Mr. Austin answered questions about the school's laddered approach to its certificates of deposit.

7. Mr. York provided an overview of the new contract between the UFT and New York City and answered questions regarding the written summary provided in the Board packet. The financial impact of the new contract on the current year financials is in line with the school's forecast.

8. Mr. York provided an update on the charter renewal application process, including an update to the timeline. Mr. York relayed additional points of feedback that were communicated by the charter authorizing team from the New York City Department of Education ("DOE") during the renewal process. A discussion followed. It was determined that FLI will take a number of immediate steps in response to feedback received from the DOE charter authorizing team, including: (1) explore ways to potentially increase enrollment of special education students or make other changes to FLI's special education program, (2) offer preparation classes for the Regents exams beginning on January 28, 2019 so that FLI Middle School students have the opportunity to secure high school credits while at FLI, and (3) revise the bylaws to ensure alignment with the current requirements for Board meetings. A number of public officials recently visited the school, and it is our hope that they will vocalize their support for a 5-year renewal of FLI's charter.

9. Mr. York delivered an update and answered questions from the Board about pre-K programming in New York City, including the current framework for charter schools. A small working group will undertake further due diligence as to the benefits and challenges of pre-K for FLI.

10. Mr. York gave an update on recruiting for the 2019-20 school year. A discussion followed. A more detailed review of the school's student recruitment and retention strategy will be delivered at the next Board meeting.

11. The Board reviewed the monthly dashboard and Mr. York answered questions regarding the data therein.

12. On motion duly made, the Board moved to Executive Session at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Personnel matters were discussed. Executive Session adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The Board Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.

The next Board Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 28, 2019, at FLI.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Brown

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Secretary