

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE
CHARTER SCHOOL
April 18, 2019

Board Members present: Natalie Deak, Andy Hutcher, Roberta Kelly, Joan Wicks.

Others Present: John Harrison York (FLI Leadership Team), London Price (FLI Leadership Team), Jody Flowers (FLI Leadership Team), Maurelhena Walles (Kids in the Game), Issac Brown (Kids in the Game), Tatum Boehnke (Kids in the Game)

By Videoconference: Katherine Brown and Ross Harold.

By Telephone: Rachel Klein, who did not vote on any matters put forth to the Board for a vote during the meeting.

Board Members Absent: Rudy Austin, Jon Drucker, Jay Hatfield, Gilda Wray.

The Board meeting began at approximately 5:40 p.m. at FLI and was called to order by Andy Hutcher.

1. Mr. Hutcher welcomed all of the Board meeting participants.
2. Representatives from Kids in the Game (“KING”), one of FLI’s afterschool partners, delivered a presentation on a new eSports program at FLI. Through this program, FLI is a founding school in New York’s first ever eSports league for middle school students. This eSports program teaches students team-building skills and sports strategies through video games and on-the-field practice. FLI utilized this to make selected middle school students excited about physical activity. The representatives answered questions from the Board.
3. The Board voted on the following items:

Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the February 2019 meeting.

Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the March 2019 meeting.

4. Jody Flowers delivered an update on behalf of the Educational Accountability working group and answered questions from the Board on the following topics:

- a. Summer Academy, which will be mandatory for some students and strongly encouraged for all students, including newly enrolled students in Kindergarten and other grades. Students who are new to FLI will be taught separately. Computer-based summer homework will be assigned to all FLI students, regardless of whether they attend Summer Academy. FLI instructional staff will comprise the majority of the Summer Academy faculty. FLI students who do not participate in the Summer Academy program will be required to complete homework over the summer that FLI staff can track online. In this way, FLI is working to support all students to maintain academic growth and learning over the summer the months.
 - b. The pedagogical organizational chart and curriculum for the 2019-20 school year. Ms. Flowers provided an overview of additional instructional positions that are proposed for 2019-20 as well as proposed changes to the responsibilities of existing positions. The Board discussed the implications for the 2019-20 budget of the additional instructional positions and agreed that improving student achievement through additional instructional support and resources is the school's top priority. In connection with the annual budget process, the Finance Committee and others will continue to thoroughly review areas of potential cost savings to help offset these expense increases.
 - c. The recent ELA State Tests and the upcoming Math State Tests, including math-focused homework that will be assigned over Spring Break.
 - d. The Extended Day program for the upcoming school year. John Harrison York and Ms. Flowers answered questions about the writeup of the current program that was included in the Board Meeting Packet. The strategy for the 2019-20 program will be discussed in detail at the next Board meeting, including implications for the budget and opportunities for cost savings. Efforts to secure additional programmatic funding and procure additional partnerships/relationships with community programs are underway.
5. Mr. York provided an update on the school's advocacy efforts in connection with the recently concluded New York state legislative session. A discussion followed regarding the ongoing imperative for continued activity in this area, particularly in light of anticipated deficits in future years.
6. The Board discussed the Student Recruitment Dashboard and the lottery for the upcoming school year. Mr. York provided an update of the school's enhanced strategy in the area of student recruitment, which remains a continuing priority.

7. Ms. Flowers provided an update on the school's relationship with Teach for America (TFA) for the upcoming school year. Two positions will be filled by TFA participants and the application process is underway.
8. The Board reviewed the current Attendance Dashboard and Enrollment Dashboard and Mr. York answered questions regarding the data therein.
9. Mr. York and Natalie Deak, on behalf of the Finance Committee, discussed the March monthly and year-to-date financials, including the drivers behind the budget-to-actual variances in the projections for FY19. Work on the FY20 budget remains underway, and the Board discussed the key factors that will affect the budget, including the per pupil funding formula, increases in compensation for unionized staff and the final New York state budget. Preliminarily, a deficit of approximately \$500,000 is forecasted. A discussion followed. It was agreed that the Board is comfortable responsibly spending some funds from the school's reserve to bolster direct classroom instruction with additional teaching positions as discussed during the Educational Accountability working group update. A review of the school's staffing model and overall cost structure remains underway to identify possible areas of expense reduction for FY20, with an emphasis on preserving and expanding direct classroom instruction where possible.
10. Ms. Flowers answered questions from the Board regarding the high school acceptances that FLI's eighth grade students had received to date.
11. On motion duly made, the Board moved to Executive Session at approximately 7:05 p.m.

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

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

The next Board Meeting will take place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 22, 2019, at FLI.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine M. Brown
Secretary