MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL
May 22, 2019

Board Members present: Rudy Austin, Katherine Brown, Natalie Deak, Jon Drucker, Ross Harold, Andy Hutcher, Joan Wicks, Gilda Wray.

Others Present: John Harrison York (FLI Leadership Team), Jessica Castro (FLI Staff).

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: Jay Hatfield, Roberta Kelly.

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. Jessica Castro, FLI's Middle School Counselor and High School Placement Director, delivered a presentation on the school's strategy and support for its eighth graders with regards to the high school placement process. Each eighth grader benefits from a customized approach and tailored support. A discussion followed in which a number of opportunities to augment and promote the program were identified.

3. The Board voted on the following item:

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

4. Gilda Wray, on behalf of the Governance Working Group, delivered the results of the recent Board Self-Evaluation. A discussion followed, during which a number of additional action items and areas for further exploration were identified, including: the Board Roles and Responsibilities, parent engagement, the annual Board give/get, Board recruiting and committee / working group engagement. The Governance Working Group will lead follow up in collaboration with the Executive Committee.

5. John Harrison York delivered an update on behalf of the Educational Accountability working group which focused on 2019 Summer Academy and the recently concluded Math State Tests. A discussion followed.

6. Mr. York delivered an update on behalf of the Leadership Team which covered the following topics:

   a. The school's advocacy efforts, including engagement with the broader independent charter school community. The Board requested additional information regarding our advocacy efforts.

   b. FLI's handbooks, which are under review by counsel as part of the annual process.

   c. Renaissance Charter School II, which is scheduled to open for the 2020-21 school year. Mr. York has been approached to potentially serve as a Board member for the school. A discussion followed, and the Board concluded that it was comfortable with Mr. York pursuing this opportunity, subject to the school's Conflicts of Interest policies.

7. Rudy Austin and Mr. York, on behalf of the Finance Committee, discussed the April monthly and year-to-date financials, including the drivers behind the budget-to-actual variances in the projections for FY19. The school recently received the annual letter from the Teachers' Retirement System providing the updated amount required for the FY19 employer contribution and the school's projected employer contribution for FY20. A discussion followed.

8. The Board discussed projected enrollment for 2019-20 and the FY20 budget, which is currently under review by the Finance Committee. Preliminarily, a deficit of more than $500,000 is forecasted as a result of uncertainty around additional funding for NYC conversion charter schools, lower projected enrollment, and growth in the school's cost structure under the UFT and CSA contracts which outpaces the increase in the per pupil funding formula. A discussion followed in which it was agreed that the Board is comfortable with responsible spending from the school's reserve to bolster direct classroom instruction, provided that cost reductions are made in other areas. A discussion of the school's administrative structure and staffing model followed.

9. The Board reviewed the current Board Dashboard, and Mr. York answered questions regarding the data therein. A discussion of the school's enrollment challenges and strategy followed.

10. On motion duly made, the Board moved to Executive Session at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Personnel matters were discussed. Executive Session adjourned at approximately 7:40 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 Thursday, June 20, 2019, at FLI.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Brown

Katherine M. Brown
Secretary