******Board-Approved******

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

Board members present: Rudy Austin, Katherine Brown, Natalie Deak, Ross Harold, Andy Hutcher and Rachel Klein.

Others present: Stan Brown (FLI Leadership Team), Jody Flowers (FLI Leadership Team), Katja Frazier (FLI Staff), Rusty Slovenec (FLI Leadership Team) and Julie Wilson (prospective Board member).

By Phone: Jon Drucker, Jay Hatfield, Roberta Kelly, Ryan Post and John Harrison York.

The Board meeting began at approximately 5:30 p.m. at FLI and was called to order by Natalie Deak.

1. Ms. Deak welcomed all the attendees to meeting.

2. Katja Frazier gave a presentation on a pilot program focused on reading intervention. Instruction is administered utilizing the Fountas & Pinnell Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) system. The intervention provides daily, intensive, customized, small group instruction to a multi-age, multi-grade cohort of struggling readers. Ms. Frazier provided a detailed overview of LLI, shared case studies highlighting student success and answered questions from the Board.

3. Rachel Klein presented the candidacy of Julie Wilson as a FLI Board Member. After discussion, the Board voted on the following item:

   a. *Julie Wilson was unanimously elected to the Board for a term to conclude in October 2021.*

4. The Board voted on the following item:

   a. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the October 23, 2019 meeting.*

5. Stan Brown gave an update on student enrollment for the current school year and the status of applications for the 2020-21 school year. Mr. Brown and Jody Flowers answered questions from the Board regarding enrollment and the student attendance data provided in the Board dashboard. Mr. Brown discussed the recent visit of a representative from InsideSchools and elements of reviews of FLI on the InsideSchools website that reference items outside of the school's control, primarily related to custodial services and building upkeep. A presentation on FLI's updated marketing materials and messaging will be given at the December Board meeting, and busing will also be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

6. Rudy Austin, on behalf of the Finance Committee, and Mr. Brown delivered the Finance Committee update, including a discussion of the October monthly and year-to-date financials and the drivers behind the budget-to-actual variances in the projections for FY20. The Board discussed the status of the funds appropriated to FLI in this year's New York State budget. The Board took note of an upcoming meeting between representatives from the New York City Department of Education, the City, FLI and two of the three other conversion charter schools in New York City to discuss the status of the additional funding that the New York City conversion charters require in light of their obligations under the UFT and CSA contracts, to which they are fully bound but to which collective bargaining process they are not a party.

7. The Board discussed FLI's SPED enrollment as well as the services and educational programming that the school provides to students with disabilities. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that an ad hoc working group comprising Board members and FLI leadership and staff will be convened to focus on FLI's SPED program and approach (including with regards to enrollment).

8. Ms. Flowers and Rusty Slovenec delivered a presentation focused on the assessment data of students who are new to FLI this school year. The Board discussed the analysis contained in the Board packet and the concerns raised that approximately 70% of this population is not proficient in either Math or ELA, and the fact that the group collectively performed below the FLI average on the 2019 state exams in both subjects. The topic of backfilling students and its impact on instruction and student achievement – including additional support that may be required for classroom teachers and others – will remain on the Board's agenda.

9. On motion duly made, the Board moved to Executive Session at approximately 6:55 p.m.

   Personnel matters were discussed. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 7:15 p.m.

The next Board meeting is expected to take place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, at FLI.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Brown
Secretary