

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

Board members present: Natalie Deak, Ross Harold, Jay Hatfield, Andy Hutcher, Ryan Post and Julie Wilson.

Others present: Stan Brown (FLI Leadership Team), Jody Flowers (FLI Leadership Team), London Price (FLI Staff) and Rusty Slovenec (FLI Leadership Team).

By Phone: Rudy Austin, Jon Drucker, Rachel Klein and John Harrison York. Attendees participating by phone did not vote on any matters put forth to the Board for a vote during the meeting.

By Videoconference: Katherine Brown

Board Members Absent: Roberta Kelly

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

1. Ms. Deak welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
2. Jody Flowers and Stan Brown provided an update on and shared photos from recent events that were held at the school, including the Honors Assembly and the Thanksgiving Feast.
3. Ms. Flowers and Mr. Brown discussed the recently updated InsideSchools review of FLI.
4. The Board discussed the topic of parent engagement. It was agreed that a more comprehensive discussion of the topic would be included on the agenda for a future Board meeting.
5. The Board discussed the school's current statistics regarding its population of students with disabilities ("SWD"). An ad hoc working group comprising Trustees, leadership and staff is focused on FLI's strategy and approach for serving this population of students. Among the school's top priorities are to increase the number and percentage of students with disabilities who attend FLI and to expand services to its SWD population.
6. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution:*

WHEREAS; Consistent with applicable state law, Future Leaders Institute Charter Schools (the "School" or "FLI") seeks to serve a student body that reflects a

comparable number of students with disabilities as does its local community school district; and

WHEREAS, in recent years, enrollment of students with disabilities at FLI has lagged behind those of Community School District 3 (“CSD 3”), where the School is located; and

WHEREAS, enrollment of students with disabilities in CSD 3 is approximately 23% of its student population; it is therefore

*RESOLVED that FLI Board of Trustees adopts an admissions set-aside preference as described in Attachment A hereto; and it is further*

*RESOLVED that the School, in consultation with its legal counsel, shall modify its admissions policy to reflect this set-aside preference for students with disabilities.*

7. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the November 18, 2019 meeting.*
8. Mr. 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 Ms. Flowers answered questions from the Board regarding the student attendance data provided in the Board dashboard. A discussion regarding trends in student attendance followed.
9. The draft marketing materials that were provided in the Board Meeting packet will be discussed and refined by an ad hoc working group comprising FLI leadership, staff and interested Trustees.
10. Rudy Austin, on behalf of the Finance Committee, and Mr. Brown delivered the Finance Committee update, including a discussion of the November monthly and year-to-date financials and the drivers behind the budget-to-actual variances in the projections for FY20. It was noted that the FY20 projection for student enrollment was increased in light of increased student enrollment.
11. Mr. Brown provided an update on the school’s advocacy efforts, which remain ongoing with two of the three other conversion charter schools in New York City. Mr. Brown outlined the various additional revenue streams (and payment status) which were appropriated as part of the current New York State budget or which remain the topic of ongoing discussions with the New York City Department of Education and/or various State and City officials.
12. Ms. Flowers and Rusty Slovenec gave an update on Saturday Academy and answered questions from the Board. The program will begin on January 11, 2020 and FLI teachers are in the final stages of preparation. The format for the program and the curriculum has been revised to provide greater focus on preparation for the State

Tests, with more targeted small group instruction and a refined strategy for enrollment.

13. Ms. Flowers delivered a report on the results of the November 2019 Benchmark exams and answered questions from the Board regarding the written analysis which was included in the Board Meeting packet. Ms. Flowers outlined the various follow up efforts that are underway, including the recently held "Data Day," in which all instructional staff spent time analyzing their students' results. Intervention and coaching is also underway. Instructional leadership and staff are focused on deploying additional resources and supports in a targeted manner to remediate gaps and improve student achievement. The Board requested additional analysis related to new vs. returning students and FLI's SWD population. Leadership will also focus on greater alignment of the Benchmarks to the State Tests. A discussion followed. The Educational Accountability working group will focus on augmenting the way in which student achievement data is presented to the Board.

14. On motion duly made, the Board moved to Executive Session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Personnel matters were discussed. The Executive Session adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 7:10 p.m.

The next Board meeting is expected to take place at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, at Ernst & Young.

Respectfully submitted,



Katherine M. Brown  
Secretary

## ATTACHMENT A

### Set-Aside Admissions Preference for Students with Disabilities

Beginning with students who enroll at the School for the 2020-2021 academic year, FLI will establish a set-aside admissions preference favoring students with disabilities such that twenty-five percent (25%) of the open seats for new students will be prioritized for students with identified disabilities as indicated by in individualized education program ("IEP"). Pursuing such a set-aside preference shall be voluntary and no student shall be required to self-identify as a student with disabilities for the purpose of admission to the School, but in order to be eligible for a preference must provide FLI with an IEP as proof of disability status.

Such a preference shall reflect FLI's intent to enroll a comparable number of students with disabilities as does CSD 3 but cannot guarantee that a sufficient number of students with IEPs will apply for seats in the school. If less than twenty-five percent 25% of the applicants in any given year meet that criteria, the remaining seats will be filled with other students. If more than twenty-five percent 25% of the applicants for open seats in any given year seek that preference, a lottery drawing will be held among those applicants eligible for the set-aside. Any students who fail to win a spot within the set-aside for students with disabilities will be included in the overall lottery pool for admission to the School. The School will maintain the confidentiality and identity of any and all students who seek an admissions preference based on disability status.