

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 24, 2021

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/91592985962?pwd=eGxpcUdkLzlkcWF6dG0wYSStIVjR5UT09>

Meeting ID: 915 9298 5962

Passcode: 4UyCHX

AGENDA

Note: For any topics marked with an asterisk, the allocated time is for questions, should they arise, from the information in the corresponding document in the Board packet.

ID	Subject	Action Required	Topic	Owner	Time
1	Announcements	N/A	a) Welcome and Announcements	a) Natalie	a) 2 minutes
2	Board Business	Board Votes	a) Approval of January Board Meeting Minutes	a) Natalie	a) 2 minutes
4	Academics	N/A	EAC Update: a) Attendance b) State Assessment Update c) Summer Academy d) Renewal Update e) BHS- Health & Wellness Launch for staff	a-e) Jody/Rusty	a-e) 30 minutes
6	Enrollment	N/A	a) Enrollment/Recruitment Update b) Family Intent to Return Survey Results / Student Preferred Learning Model 2021-22	a-b) Thandi/ Jody/Rusty	a-c) 20 minutes
7	Finance	N/A	Finance Committee Update c) Monthly Finance Committee	Rudy	10 minutes
8	Executive Session	N/A	a) Executive Session	a) Natalie	a) 15 minutes ¹

¹ Anticipated length of time

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL

MARCH 24, 2021

As a result of the extraordinary circumstances resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board meeting took place via videoconference in compliance with the Governor's Order.

Board members present: Rudy Austin, Katherine Brown, Natalie Deak, Jon Drucker, Ross Harold, Roberta Kelly, Rachel Klein, Ryan Post, Julie Wilson and John Harrison York.

Others present: Thandi Edwards (FLI Leadership Team), Jody Flowers (FLI Leadership Team) and Rusty Slovenec (FLI Leadership Team).

Board members absent: Jay Hatfield.

The meeting began at approximately 5:40 p.m. and was called to order by Natalie Deak.

1. Ms. Deak welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
2. *Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the February 2021 Board meeting.*
3. Jody Flowers provided the Academics update. She reviewed the materials provided in the Board packet and answered questions from the Board on the following items:
 - a. *Attendance.* While overall attendance remains strong, on-time attendance has declined and the Attendance Team remains focused on this issue.
 - b. *State Assessment Update.* Given that instruction for grades 3-8 is fully remote, FLI will not administer the state assessments for the 2020-21 school year pursuant to the State's recently published guidelines. The final Benchmark Assessments of the school year will be administered remotely and will be used to determine Summer Academy placement as well as identify additional support needed for students in the 2021-22 school year. Families were recently notified of this update.
 - c. *Summer Academy.* Given space constraints and physical distancing requirements, in-person Summer Academy will be offered to select students in grades K-8. The focus will be on those in need of additional remediation. All FLI students will engage in a summer learning program, which will be virtual for those who are not attending Summer Academy.

4. Ms. Flowers provided an update on the current timeline and schedule for FLI's upcoming charter renewal application process. A virtual site visit with a representative from the New York City Department of Education's Charter Authorizing Office will occur in May in advance of kicking off the full charter renewal application process in the fall. FLI's current charter expires in June 2022.
5. Ms. Flowers and Rusty Slovenec provided an update on the additional behavioral health and well-being support that is now available to all FLI staff through BHS.
6. Thandi Edwards gave an update on student recruitment and enrollment and reviewed the school's current application statistics and timeline for the lottery for the 2021-22 school year. Direct applications (versus applications through the common application) are up significantly on a year-over-year basis. A discussion of sector-wide and Harlem-specific trends followed, and Ms. Edwards outlined the drivers behind the general decline in charter applications in New York and in Harlem in particular. The Board discussed the data from the survey that was recently sent to families regarding their intention to return to FLI and its implications for the upcoming school year and the options for various learning models (e.g., fully remote, hybrid, fully in-person, etc.) under consideration. The Board emphasized the need for transparency and steady communication with families given the fluidity of the situation.
7. Rudy Austin, on behalf of the Finance Committee, provided an overview of the February month-end financial results, including the drivers between the budget-to-actual variances. Given the school's strong balance sheet and anticipated surplus for the school year, the Finance Committee recommended moving forward with a proposed capital purchase of new copy machines in advance of the expiration of the lease for the current machines in June. The Board was supportive of this recommendation and the school will proceed with the RFP process for new copy machines.

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 6:35 p.m.

The next Board meeting is expected to take place at 5:30 p.m. on April 28, 2021, by videoconference.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine M. Brown

Secretary