

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL
JULY 23, 2024

The Board is transitioning toward in-person board meetings.

Board members present by videoconference: Rob Fratto, Rudy Austin, Fernando Garcia, Heather Northrop, Ross Harold, Jennifer Peña- Detata

Others present: Jody Flowers (Principal) and Natalie Gonzalez-Valdes (Assistant Principal), Rusty Slovenic (Asst. Principal)

Board members absent: Jay Hatfield, Natalie Deak Jaros, Rachel Klein, Jennifer Estrella

The meeting began at approximately 5:35 p.m. and was called to order by Rudy Austin.

1. *Welcome.* Rudy Austin welcomed all attendees to the July Meeting.
2. *Attendance & Enrollment Update.* Ms. Flowers gave an overview of attendance and absences.

Enrollment - This year: Enrollment went down by one, based upon a student who unenrolled. The other siblings in the families stayed at the program.

Next year: Less applications this year than last based upon applications submitted. 17 families currently enrolling. We have applications that are in currently where there is no response, school has been reaching out but not hearing back. 79 families have declined. Numbers registered have increased on a monthly basis compared to numbers from last year and holding fairly steady. Still trying to recruit more students through advertising and marketing. Two new students who enrolled are ENL students. Starting to gather more information about where people heard about FLI from, will dive deeper to better understand where to place resources for recruitment.

3. *Academics Update.* Ms Gonzalez gave an update on how students performed on benchmark assessments. Across standards, students performed best on English Standards. Although special education students did not score at a level to reach benchmark, many are close. There was a request to do more to share about trends of data across grades and classrooms historically and within teacher. Math scores show positive trends, but historically can be challenging because each benchmark assesses different topics.

Usually there's better results when students understand their goals in upper grade, so there's some plans to have conversations with teachers about how to engage with students about owning their own learning and goals to achieve higher scores.

Review of updated assessment information for k-3. In reviewing this information, the board discussed process for understanding what the school does when a student does not demonstrate progress over the course of the year, how IEP revisions are made, and how and when concerns may be flagged. This includes plans for communication, collaboration, and curriculum for the coming school year.

4. *Minutes*. Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the July 2024 Board meeting.
5. *Finance Update & Budget amendment*. Mr. Slovenic presented the finance report. Upon closer review, the finance committee determined that there had been a slight issue with the percentage used for the pension fund. This led to an increase in the budget. The formula was also not picking up the amount of money the school needed to pay for administrative staff, pay increases for all unionized staff in March. This led to a decrease in the surplus that had been passed in the previous budget. To make up for this gap, there is a hold on the position of a reading specialist intended for grades 4-5. This may be put back on the hiring list, but is hold for now. Focus for the summer will be on Special Education hiring. Any projected positions are anticipated in the budget for the entire year. Amendment moved and seconded. Motion approved.

This year's budget is closing with a surplus of 43129 despite a projected deficit. Will continue to keep updated on audit process. The auditors have requested updates on the bylaws and the budget committee. Money has been moved into CDs which should generate greater passive income on current board holdings.

6. *Events* - Ms. Flowers shared that the stepping up/graduation ceremonies took place and were well attended. Summer academy will be reviewed in greater depth in July. Orientations for new families will be held over the course of the summer, some families moving into middle school may also attend even if they are currently at the school. Last newsletter published as well. Next school year's calendar is approved and will be shared with families at the end of the week along with digital report cards.

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 6:45 p.m.

The next Board meeting is expected to take place at 5:30 p.m. on August 22, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Harold
Secretary