

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF FUTURE LEADERS INSTITUTE CHARTER SCHOOL
September 24, 2024

The Board is transitioning toward in-person board meetings.

Board members present by videoconference: Rudy Austin, Heather Northrop, Ross Harold, Jennifer Peña- Detata, Fernando Garcia, Rachel Klein (by phone), Jennifer Estrella

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

Board members absent: Natalie Deak Jaros, Jay Hatfield

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 September Meeting.
2. *Minutes.* Upon motion duly made, the Board unanimously voted to approve the minutes from the August 2024 Board meeting.
3. *School Safety Plan* - updated for this year, only major change was removing requirement for quarantine plan. The Board unanimously voted to approve the plan. It will be posted on the website.

4. *Attendance & Enrollment Update.*

Ms. Flowers shared information about attendance. While the report does not have data (it lags a month behind), there was the opportunity to review previous years data compared to the DOE. FLI stayed above DOE attendance percentages each year.

Mr Slovenic gave an update on enrollment numbers using the enrollment dashboard. There are currently 251 students enrolled, which is below the 275 budget. The school is 17 students under budgeted/planned when students on the enrollment list but not attending are removed (“ghost” students). Month except July experienced increased numbers of new students enrolled compared to the previous year. The finance committee will review budgets. Marketing will continue, including additional marketing in Spanish in northern Manhattan. For next year, there will also be additional early outreach to local daycares earlier in the year.

5. *Academics Update.*

Ms Flowers gave an update about state test results. FLI state test scores are compared to District 5, although the school is in District 3 as that is a closer population sample. FLI has a 40% proficiency rate across grades 3-8, which the city and CSD 5 did as well. Math scores were at at 50% proficiency rate, which was a greater increase than the city and CSD 5.

For students who stay longer in the school, their proficiency rates tend to increase. Mr. Austin expressed concerns about the lower proficiency rates in 3rd and 4th grade. Ms Gonzalez indicated that these students started school during the pandemic, so experience some gaps in phonics and phonemic awareness. Mr. Austin indicated that he wanted to

see a clear plan for how K-3 looks so we can avoid these gaps. Ms. Estrella indicated that she would like to see specific meeting time targeted at how school leadership is supporting the cohorts of students who are showing lower rates of proficiency on the state test. Also considering how this impacts students' test taking skills and ability to attend to and focus on tasks. School leadership will provide an update as to how students in these grades compare to the CSD and the city.

Targeted breakouts of how students from equity groups (Special education and ENL students).

Jody will share the event calendar and would like to see FLI board members attend the events listed on the calendar.

6. *Finance Update* - The finance report was shared. The Special Education count is higher, which is leading to higher revenue than budgeted, despite lower enrollment, which will impact the entire number. Personnel costs are slightly lower than budgeted. Auditors reviewed all documents. Waiting for last year's documents to come through before it's all processed. Mr. Austin shared that the auditors gave Mr. Slovenic a glowing review,

The Board meeting adjourned at approximately 6:17 p.m.

The next Board meeting is expected to take place on October 29, 2024 at 5:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Harold
Secretary