

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, October 24, 2019 – 9:30 AM

Friendship Community Office, 1400 First Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001

Participating Board Members were: Donald L. Hense, Chairman; Gregory Prince, Vice Chair; Victor Long, Secretary; Patricia Brantley; and Chris White. Darrin Glymph, Treasurer and Deborah McGriff participated by phone.

Staff Members in attendance were: Ken Cherry, Chief of Staff; Vielka Scot-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer; Catherine Sanwo, Comptroller; Candice Tolliver-Burns, Chief Communications Officer; James Waller, Chief of School Operations; Zachery Morford, Chief Performance Officer; Joe Bedney, Administrative Assistant and Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Evaluation.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM.

Also participating by phone was Dennis Theis of Maner Costerisan to review the FY 2019 audit report.

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Gregory Prince and second by Chris White, the board voted unanimously to approve the May 23, 2019 meeting minutes.

Finance Update. Darrin Glymph, Finance Committee Chair, introduced Dennis Theis of Maner Costerisan, the auditor for Friendship PCS who reviewed the audit process and the results from the FY 2019 audit report. On a motion from Victor Long and second by Chris White, the board voted unanimously to approve the audit as presented. Mr. Glymph then introduced the finance report previously reviewed and approved by members of the Finance Committee and included in board materials. Mr. Glymph noted that Friendship's enrollment increased over prior year, revenues are expected to increase due to grants and charter per pupil payments, and all Bond Reserves will be fully funded. Finally, Mr. Glymph stated that Friendship's Standard and Poor's bond rating was affirmed as BBB.

James Waller, Chief of Schools, provided an update on behalf of the Facilities Working Group that included the vision for inspirational spaces at FPCS campuses and an overview of current and upcoming capital projects. Mr. Waller concluded the report by providing projected deferred maintenance costs for FPCS facilities over the next 10 years.

CEO Overview: Patricia Brantley provided an overview of FPCS goals and PMF performance. Ms. Brantley highlighted that Southeast Elementary was the newest Friendship campus to earn Tier 1 status for SY 2018-19, increasing the number of Tier 1 campuses to six, the highest number to date. Prior year Tier 1 campuses also have increased PMF scores. Ms. Brantley stated that Friendship continues to demonstrate results with our students who are at-risk compared to other public schools in the District and expressed equity concerns that are not readily apparent in PMF reports. Ms. Brantley concluded by stating that a number of our campuses not ranked as Tier 1, were recognized as Bold Performance campuses because student results on PARCC exceeded expected performance compared to other schools serving at-risk youth.

School Performance Committee Report. Vielka Scott-Marcus introduced the School Performance Committee report previously reviewed and approved by the committee. Mrs. Marcus discussed, in more

detail, the academic performance of campuses over time as well as outlined what worked, and what Friendship will continue to do to drive academic outcomes. Mrs. Marcus noted that over a three-year period, Tech Prep High has shown the greatest improvement on the PARCC in English language arts and Woodridge Elementary in mathematics. Ms. Brantley added that the majority of students at Tech Prep High were elementary and middle students at Friendship. Mrs. Marcus closed the report by stating that to ensure this increase in academic achievement continues across all campuses, Friendship will focus on the implementation of best practices related to the teaching of balanced literacy and conceptual mathematics, student exposure to real world and field experiences aligned with content, teacher recruitment and retention, and renovation and creation of inspirational spaces.

Discipline Committee Update. Victor Long stated that the Discipline Committee met to review and discuss the Student Fair Access to School Act and its alignment to current school practices. Mr. Long noted that the committee will focus on ensuring that Friendship's long standing practice of supporting the whole child through the review of discipline data it currently collects, is expanded to include data that reflects the wrap-around services in place at campuses. Ms. Brantley stated that while there has been a sharp reduction in incidents in Friendship school buildings, students are still experiencing trauma in the city. Mr. Long concluded the update with stating that the Discipline Committee will be changing its name to one that reflects Friendship's focus on supporting the whole child.

Adjournment. On a motion by Gregory Prince and a second by Chris White, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:15 a.m.