

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2021 – 3:00 PM

Zoom Meeting

Participating Board Members were: Donald Hense, Chair; Gregory Prince, Vice Chair; Darrin Glymph, Treasurer; Victor Long, Secretary; Patricia Brantley; Carol Thompson Cole, Tracy Gray, Eric McKinley King, Deborah McGriff, Jeanette Mendes, Gabrielle Montgomery, and Chris White.

Staff Members in attendance were: Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer; Catherine Sanwo, Comptroller; Candice Tolliver-Burns, Chief Communications Officer; James Waller, Chief of School Operations; Zac Morford, Chief Performance Officer; Kimberly Campbell, Strategic Advisor and Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Evaluation.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 3:06 PM.

New Business – Use of Auxiliary Space. Donald L. Hense, chair of the Friendship Board of Trustees stated that this meeting is to discuss two items that are new business. Mr. Hense asked Pat Brantley to provide an overview of the new business, which involves the use of auxiliary space.

Ms. Brantley stated as we are in the midst of this pandemic, there is a need for auxiliary space in order to conduct programs and provide better opportunities for students. An opportunity came up with Whittle School & Studios to access space at their Connecticut Avenue location. Multiple tours with Principals, teachers, and other staff took multiple tours and there is excitement about the space. The learning labs, science labs, art rooms, performance space are ideal for what we would like to do with students. We wanted the board to be aware of the space and to approve what is a no cost agreement for Friendship to use the space. Mr. Hense added that he had never seen an academic space for elementary and secondary students as imaginative as this space is. It is absolutely stunning.

Dr. McGriff moved to approve the resolution to authorize use of the space at Whittle School & Studios and Gregory Prince seconded the motion. Mr. Hense stated that we are now open for discussion. Chris White asked if there was a financial down side to entering into the agreement, specifically, if Friendship could lose the space. Ms. Brantley stated that if we were to lose the space, there would still be a benefit from its use. Educators who were in the space began to think differently about what was possible in the space and how space could be used, even in their own school buildings.

Monique Miller asked Ms. Brantley and Mr. Hense to address the perceived conflict of interest with Chris Whittle serving on the Friendship PCS Board of Trustees and being the Founder and CEO of Whittle Studio and Schools. Dr. McGriff stated that the perceived conflict of interest is noted in the resolution and that Chris Whittle is not voting. Chris White asked if there is any exposure to him or us with a conflict of interest being on our board and his board. Dr. Prince

stated that if there is not a monetary connection here, this is a free lease, with no exchange of money; we are not at risk as long as we have duly done the notices we are supposed to do.

The board voted by roll call to approve the resolution.

Mr. Hense asked Ms. Brantley to provide an overview of the second item of new business, which is offering Global Citizens Public Charter School the opportunity to share space at Friendship Collegiate Academy. Ms. Brantley stated that we wanted to make the board aware of co-location or incubator space at Collegiate that we are providing for a school called Global for up to three years. There is a memo that outlines payment of a usage fee based on the number of students enrolled. The benefit is that some of the space at Collegiate is underutilized, but we intended to do renovation to reprogram it. We would potentially do an honors middle academy and build out the online portion of the school, and this brings in money for us to do this. Ms. Brantley asked James Waller, Chief of School if there is anything else he would like to add.

Mr. Waller shared with the board a description of the school's program and the grades that would be served during the location, PK3 – first. Mr. Waller also discussed the opportunities for programmatic collaboration because of the co-location.

Mr. Glymph noted that because Friendship Collegiate is bond financed, any use agreement that we enter into will have to be reviewed by the District as well as get an opinion of bond counsel (another law firm) to say that this arrangement will not affect the tax exemption on our current bonds that finance that facility.

Adjournment. On a motion by Gregory Prince and a second by Eric McKinley King, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:33 PM.