

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, May 13, 2021 – 9:30 AM

Zoom Meeting

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

Staff Members in attendance were: Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer; Catherine Sanwo, Comptroller; Ken Campbell, Chief of Staff; Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Joe Bedney, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Donald Hense, Chair at 9:30 A.M.

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Gregory Prince and second by Darrin Glymph, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 18, 2021 board meeting.

Finance Committee Report. Darrin Glymph stated that the full report was presented to the Finance Committee on May 4, 2021. He stated that everything looks great and asked Catherine Sanwo to hit the highlights, letting the board know where we are in FY 2021 and talk about the grant and the budget for FY 2022.

Mr. Darrin Glymph turned the report over to Ms. Catherine Sanwo to present details of the report. Ms. Sanwo stated that net income is projected at \$718K and remains unchanged from the March board meeting. Revenues are up \$4.8M over prior year due to increases in per pupil funding, emergency federal funding for COVID relief as well as a Rockefeller Foundation Grant that supports weekly COVID testing for students and adults. Expenses continue to include Friendship's expansive programmatic response to COVID-19. Ms. Sanwo reported the third quarter reserve deposit was completed, the reserve will be fully funded and Friendship is expected to end the year at \$46M. As a 2021 bond requirement, an interest bearing account was opened with City National Bank and will be a Friendship controlled account. This account will maintain a collected balance of at least 15% of the outstanding balance of the loan.

Ms. Sanwo then presented the budget for FY 2022 that projects sufficient revenues to cover all expenses, meet debt obligations, and fund all reserves. The proposed budget includes a contingency of \$711K. The proposed budget includes a revenue of \$127.6M based on maintaining consistent enrollment, a proposed 3.6% increase to the UPSFF plus increases to weights for specific per pupil categories, and ESSER 3 and other grant funding. An expense of \$126.9M is based on an in-person reopening with enhanced operational requirements due to COVID-19, a distance learning option for students with medical certification and contingencies if a virtual or hybrid learning is needed. Expenses also reflect investments in teacher and leader compensation to remain competitive. The cost of living increase is set at two percent. Ms. Sanwo concluded the presentation stating that an increase in bond reserves is expected and transitioned the report back to Mr. Glymph.

Darrin Glymph stated Friendship successfully closed on the bond deal and reviewed the specifics of the 2021 Bond that included an overview of funded facilities projects for Southeast and Ideal. Mr. Glymph then shared with the board S& P Global Ratings affirmed FPCS's BBB rating. The report concluded with an update on the FY 2021 audit and an expected draft to be completed by October 12, 2021.

On a motion by Gregory Prince and second by Eric McKinley King, the board voted unanimously to approve the Finance Committee Report and the FY 2022 Budget.

Chris White wanted to put on record that the board owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Darrin Glymph for chairing and his leadership on this Finance committee. They are astonished that all the good things he has done and initiated.

Patricia Brantley provided an update on the Hope Lamond facility, which the Board approved staff to pursue for auxiliary space. Ms. Brantley shared that staff submitted an offer, in line with market rates, to purchase the facility versus subleasing from Hope Community PCS. To purchase is more cost effective than the lease, which is almost three times the per pupil cost Friendship spends for its facilities. Staff is awaiting a response from the owner. Darrin Glymph suggested that the board should do an inducement resolution for the purchase of the facility. Ms. Brantley added that an inducement resolution is needed so the facility purchase and any necessary capital improvements can be reimbursed by a future tax-exempt bond financing. Ms. Brantley asked that a motion be made for the inducement resolution facilities purchase.

Gregory Prince stated that the Facilities Committee has reviewed the proposed resolution with the Finance Committee and supports it and put forward the motion, and Chris White second. The board voted unanimously to approve the inducement resolution. Darrin Glymph recused himself from the vote.

Patricia Brantley stated that on Monday, we will hear from the Public Charter School Board on its approval.

School Performance Committee Report. Deborah McGriff reported that the committee has had a very robust school performance committee discussion and staff should proceed with the report.

Ken Cherry provided an overview of the School Performance Committee report that included Mayor Bowser's expectation for all DC schools to open with in-person learning for SY 2021-22. To this end, Friendship is expanding summer learning programming, planning extension PD, reinforcing COVID mitigation strategies and enhancing technology for staff and students. Mr. Cherry then transitioned the report to Vielka Scott-Marcus.

Mrs. Scott-Marcus reported that Friendship began Quarter 4 with more scholars in-person for live instruction. Friendship will offer Summer Learning & Enrichment Experiences for all students in grades PK-12th to provide an opportunity for growth. These opportunities include Summer Play/Xperience, Summer Learning Academy, Summer Enrichment Camp, Friendship Cares Camp, 9th Grade Bridge, 10th – 11th Real Estate Seminar and Credit Recovery & SYEP.

Mrs. Scott-Marcus discussed with the Board the priorities for SY 2021-22 such as continuing to provide a world-class education that focuses on strengthening our Tier 1 student experience will

broadening Tier 2 and Tier 3 opportunities through a multi-tiered system of support. There also will be an increased focus on social emotional learning, student voice and agency. Priorities also include hiring additional staff to address identified areas of need as a result of COVID (e.g. SEL, high dose tutoring), expanding outdoor learning as well as upgrading classroom technology with new interactive boards, speakers and cameras.

Deborah McGriff reminded the School Performance Committee that going forward to think about how the committee is going to sustain new features being added and not think of them as a one-time funding opportunity.

Donald Hense thanked the board for a very good year. He thanked Patricia Brantley, CEO and senior staff.

Adjournment. On a motion by Chris White and second by Eric McKinley King the board voted to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m.