

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, March 24, 2022 – 9:30 AM

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

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

Staff Members in attendance were: Ken Cherry, Chief of Staff; Catherine Sanwo, Comptroller; John Glover, Chief External Affairs Officer; James Waller, Chief of School Operations; Zac Morford, Chief Performance Officer; Dylan Gruver, Chief People Officer; Kimberly Campbell, Senior Advisor; Joe Bedney, Administrative Assistant, and Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Evaluation.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Donald Hense, Chair at 10:33 AM.

Executive Session. Mr. Hense asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the performance of the Chief Executive Officer. On a motion by Eric McKinley King and second by Gregory Prince, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session.

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Eric McKinley King and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 16, 2021 board meeting.

Finance Update. Darrin Glymph, Chair of the Finance Committee introduced the report approved by members of the Committee and included in the board materials. Mr. Glymph turned the report over to Catherine Sanwo to review details of the report. Mrs. Sanwo stated that Friendship is on track to meet end of year projected net income of \$756K. Revenues are up \$10.6M over prior year due to increases in per pupil funding and emergency federal funding for COVID relief. Expenses are up \$10M over prior year due to cost of living increase, adding staff to support higher enrollment, as well as COVID mitigation. The second quarter reserve deposit was made and Friendship is expected to end the year at \$50.3M in reserves.

Mrs. Sanwo also provided an update on Friendship's investment performance and reviewed the investment policy. The board discussed strategies to better leverage its investments. Patricia Brantley proposed working with the Finance Committee to bring forth recommendations for amending the investment policy, if needed, and investment options at the May Meeting.

Ms. Brantley provided an update on the use of the auxiliary space and the positive responses of families, students, and staff to the enrichment programs that have been taking place. Trustees discussed a variety of ways in which this space can continue to support innovative student programming planned for the Friendship community as well as parent engagement (e.g. Parent University). Anise Walker stated that she would like to ensure the Board honors the memory of Gail Sivels, inaugural Director of Parent Engagement, by dedicating a space to her.

Mrs. Sanwo closed her portion of the report with providing an overview of our charter performance regarding compliance and finance.

Finally, Ms. Brantley provided a forecast of the proposed budget that will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the Finance Committee Report.

School Performance Committee Report. Deborah McGriff, School Performance Co-Chair introduced the School Performance report approved by members of the School Performance Committee and included in the board materials. Dr. McGriff noted that the committee continues to compare Friendship's performance to local and national standards when data are available. Ken Cherry, Chief of Staff, provided an overview of the report and transitioned the report to Monique Miller to discuss the status of Friendship's Qualitative Site Reviews (QSRs) as a part of ongoing discussion regarding Friendship's upcoming charter review. Ms. Miller reviewed the timeline of activities related to the charter review process and provided more detail about the components of the QSRs. Ms. Miller transitioned the report to Zac Morford who discussed CLASS results by campus, attendance, as well as NWEA MAP reading and math winter results. Mr. Morford noted Friendship's NWEA MAP performance compared to a national study that showed our performance was mixed according to grade level performance in reading but had greater loss in mathematics. During the discussion, Jeanette Mendes noted the impact of COVID on teachers, the stress of teacher burnout, and the potential impact on students. Ms. Brantley discussed data from the EmpowerK12 report that revealed the learning losses amongst different student groups and noted for the next two years, Friendship's budgets will reflect investments in addressing the losses through program and staffing enhancements.

Mr. Cherry closed the School Performance Report with an overview of Friendship's five-year strategic planning process and the focus for finishing the school year strong. Mr. Cherry discussed the five focus areas of the plan and shared that a board survey will be disseminated in June followed by a board retreat to finalize the strategic plan in the fall/winter. Finally, Mr. Cherry shared plans and actions to prepare for all high stakes assessments as well as supporting school staff with effective instruction through the end of the year.

On a motion by Gregory Prince and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously to accept the School Performance Committee report.

Adjournment. On a motion by Deborah McGriff and second by Jeanette Mendes, the board voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:49 a.m.