

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, May 19, 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, Tracy Gray, and Anise Walker. Darrin Glymph, Treasurer; Jeanette Mendes, and Gabby Montgomery participated via Zoom

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

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Donald Hense, Chair at 9:34 AM.

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

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Gregory Prince and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2022 board meeting.

Finance Update. Darrin Glymph, Treasurer and 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. Ms. Sanwo stated that Friendship is on track to meet end of year projected net income of \$756K. Revenues are up \$16M over prior year due to increases in per pupil funding and emergency federal funding for COVID relief. Expenses are up \$16M over prior year due to cost of living increase, adding staff to support higher enrollment, as well as COVID mitigation. The third quarter reserve deposit was made and Friendship is expected to end the year at \$50.3M in reserves.

Ms. Sanwo presented the budget for FY2023 that assumes revenue to cover all expenses, meet debt obligations and fund all reserves. The proposed budget includes a contingency of \$736K. The proposed budget includes revenues of \$140M based on maintaining consistent enrollment, a proposed 5.9% increase to the UPSFF plus increases to weights for specific per pupil categories, and ESSER 3 and other grant funding. Expenses of \$139M continue to reflect enhanced operational requirements due to COVID-19 and academic priorities. Campus expenses are based on campus-specific student populations and programming, and reflect investments in teacher and leader compensation to remain competitive. The cost of living increase is set at three and a half percent. Ms. Brantley added that Friendship has engaged Maner Costerisan for the FY2021-22 audit. Audit prep has begun with preliminary field work scheduled to begin June 20, 2022. Ms. Sanwo concluded the presentation.

On a motion by Chris White and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously to approve the FY2023 budget and accept the Finance Committee report.

School Performance Committee Report. Gregory Prince, School Performance Co-Chair, introduced the School Performance report reviewed by members of the School Performance Committee and included in the board materials. Dr. Prince opened the report by stating college success is the measure for college readiness and the report will cover promising statistics gathered on our high school alumni. Dr. Prince transitioned the report to Friendship staff for review with the board.

Monique Miller briefly reviewed the timeline of activities related to the charter review process and focused attention on preliminary results of campus Qualitative Site Reviews. Ms. Miller noted distinguished and proficient ratings increased in the Classroom Environment and Instruction domains by double digits at most campuses and high performance was maintained at those campuses without those gains. Ms. Miller stated that staff would receive more results from DC PCSB staff and the final four Friendship elementary campuses were in the last round of QSR windows. Ms. Miller transitioned the report to Zac Morford who discussed attendance and performance on high school metrics.

Mr. Morford stated PSAT and SAT performance improved steadily from SY 2016-17 to 2019-20, but decreased in SY 2020-21 due to the pandemic. Friendship expanded its dual enrollment opportunities to students in grades 9 -12 through agreements with Arizona State University, Granite State College, University of the District of Columbia, and American University. Student participation and students earning at least a C- in these classes also increased. Mr. Morford also reported on Friendship's alumni highlighting the Class of 2017 achieved our highest four-year graduation rate to date at 15% and overall, 23% of alumni have completed college in six years, a rate that is nearly twice the national average for like students.

Ms. Brantley announced to the Board that Friendship graduates received \$6 million dollars in college scholarships.

Mr. Cherry and Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer, closed the School Performance Report with an overview of Friendship's information gathering to inform the board's strategic planning process and the SY 2022-23 educational priorities. Mr. Cherry discussed the five focus areas of the work and shared next steps related to sharing information with the board to inform its planning, including a board survey in June followed by a board retreat. Mrs. Scott-Marcus highlighted priorities for next school year that include expanding social emotional learning, supports to our online learners, providing differentiated learning experiences for teachers, and a focus on scholar supports and systems to accelerate learning across the continuum.

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

Dr. Prince presented a resolution to approve the submission of a charter amendment request to increase Friendship's enrollment ceiling. Dr. Prince stated that our enrollment has grown as a result of our support of school communities that had to close as well as our online programming.

Ms. Brantley stated that our enrollment has increased steadily since the 2018-19 school year, particularly in our online programs during the pandemic. We expect families to stay with us and are projected to exceed our enrollment ceiling of 5,115 by school year 2023-24. Therefore, we must submit a request for an increase.

On a motion by Anise Walker and second by Patricia Brantley the board voted unanimously to approve the resolution to submit a charter amendment request to increase Friendship's enrollment ceiling.

Adjournment. The board voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:16 a.m.

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