

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, March 23, 2023 – 9:30 AM

In-Person and Zoom Meeting

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

Staff Members in attendance were: Catherine Sanwo, Comptroller; James Waller, Chief of School Operations; Zac Morford, Chief Performance Officer; Dylan Gruver, Chief People Officer; Kimberly Campbell, Senior Advisor; Marleen Greenleaf, Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive Officer, and Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Evaluation.

Also in attendance were Joseph Speight and Leah Hassler, Armstrong Elementary and Middle; Gregory Spears, Blow Pierce Elementary and Middle; Diamond Harris, Chamberlain Elementary and Middle; Peggy Jones, Collegiate Academy; John Snowdy, Ideal Elementary and Middle; Tracie Dow, Southeast Elementary and Middle; Kun Ye Booth, Technology Preparatory Academy; and Erica Stevens, Woodridge Elementary and Middle.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Donald L. Hense, Chair at 9:32 AM.

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Anise Walker and second by Jeanette Mendes, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from the December 15, 2022 board meeting.

Finance Update. Darrin Glymph, Chair of the Finance Committee introduced the report approved by members of the Committee and Ms. Catherine Sanwo reviewed details of the report. Ms. Sanwo stated that Friendship is on track to meet end of year projected net income of \$697K. Pat Brantley stated that the Mayor's proposed budget for SY23-24 included an increase of 5.05% for the foundation level and a 3.1% increase for facilities. Outside of the formula for the first time, are proposed funds for increased teacher compensation at an estimated 12.5% for annual salary increases and 7.6% for other compensation. Mr. Hense stated that we have to pay close attention to all finances as the Mayor is projecting a deficit over the next five years. He added that he hopes this deficit projection has an outcome the same as in the past, when deficits were projected but resulted in a surplus.

Ms. Sanwo continued the report stating expenses reflect enhanced operational requirements due to COVID-19; learning loss recovery and mental health supports for scholars; and salary increases to retain staff/combat local and national staff attrition trends. Ms. Sanwo stated that Friendship will meet all bond covenants with required reserves fully funded based on requirements.

Ms. Brantley reviewed the other finance updates that included solar panel negotiations and identifying locations for a new imagination station and makerspace.

On a motion by Anise Walker and second by Darrin Glymph, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the Finance Committee Report.

Closed Session. Mr. Hense asked for a motion to go into Closed Session for board development. On a motion by Anise Walker and second by Gregory Prince, the board voted unanimously by roll call to go into Closed Session.

Adjournment. The Board returned to Public Session. On a motion by Gregory Price and second by Eric McKinley King, the Board voted to adjourn the meeting at approximately 3:15 PM.