

MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025 – 10:00 AM

Participating Board Members were: Donald L. Hense, Chair; Dr. Gregory S. Prince Jr., Vice Chair; Patricia A. Brantley; Carol Thompson Cole; Eric McKinley King, Anise Walker and Sue P. White participated in-person. Darrin Glymph, Treasurer; Jeanette Mendes; and Chris White participated by Zoom. A quorum was achieved with 10 of 13 trustees present.

Absent were Unique Fullmore, Parent Representative, Victor E. Long, Secretary, and Dr. Deborah M. McGriff.

Staff Members in attendance were: Catherine Somefun, Chief Financial Officer; Zac Morford, Chief Performance Officer; Vielka Scott- Marcus, Chief Academic Officer; James Waller, Chief of Schools; John Glover, Chief External Affairs Officer; and Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Evaluation participated in person. Ken Cherry, Chief of Staff; Kimberly Campbell, Strategic Advisor; participated by Zoom.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM.

Approval of Agenda. On a motion by Anise Walker and second by Sue P. White, the board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the December 11, 2025 meeting agenda.

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Dr. Gregory S. Prince and second by Eric McKinley King, the board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the October 23, 2025 board minutes.

Nominations and Governance Committee Report. Mrs. Carol Thompson Cole, Chair of the Nominations and Governance Committee, introduced the committee report previously reviewed and approved by its members and included in board materials. Mrs. Thompson Cole reviewed the board composition requirements, the slate of nominees and board calendar.

On a motion by Mrs. Thompson Cole, the board approved by roll call vote the recommended slate of nominees, committee assignments and board calendar.

Mrs. Thompson-Cole informed the Board of legislation passed by DC Council that requires public charter school boards of trustees to receive annual governance training effective for the 2026-27 school year. Finally, Mrs. Thompson Cole reviewed with the board a resolution recognizing Dr. Tracy Gray's 13 years of service on the Friendship PCS Board of Trustees.

On a motion by Mrs. Thompson Cole, the board approved by roll call vote the resolution to recognize Dr. Tracy Gray for her service on the Friendship PCS Board of Trustees.

Finance Update. Darrin Glymph, Finance Committee Chair, introduced the committee report previously reviewed by members of the Finance Committee and included in board materials. Mr. Glymph turned the report over to Catherine Somefun, Chief Financial Officer, to review details of the report.

Mrs. Somefun updated the board on funds received from the Employee Retention Credit, a federal refundable tax credit that have been placed in a Friendship controlled reserve account.

Mrs. Somefun reviewed the first quarter financials and year-end budget forecast noting net income is projected at \$509K.

Using three years of prior data, Mrs. Somefun projected Friendship performance on Key Performance Indicators from the DC PCSB's FAR report with results continuing to trend in a positive direction. Regarding Friendship's reserves, the first quarter deposit was completed and all reserves will be fully funded.

Finally, Mrs. Somefun directed the Board's attention to a conflicting interest disclosure and contract approval for bond counsel, at which point, Mr. Glymph recused himself from the meeting. Mrs. Somefun stated Friendship PCS would like to extend a contract to Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP (Orrick) for borrower's counsel services to assist Friendship with the refinancing of existing indebtedness. Darrin Glymph, Friendship PCS trustee, also serves as Partner and Head of the Public Finance Team at Orrick. Mrs. Somefun noted that the contract was reviewed by staff and determined to be fair, reasonable, and consistent with market rates, and that all procurement requirements were met.

On a motion by Donald L. Hense, the Board approved by roll call vote 9-0 to accept the Finance Committee report and approve the Orrick contract. Darrin Glymph recused himself from the Orrick discussion and the vote.

School Performance Committee Report. Dr. Gregory S. Prince Jr., co-chair of the School Performance Committee, introduced the School Performance Committee report previously reviewed by the committee, included in board materials, and asked Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer to present the report.

Mrs. Marcus shared with the Board academic and non-academic data, starting with performance highlights from the DC School Report Card. She noted that Blow Pierce Middle, Armstrong Middle, Southeast Middle, and Woodridge Middle were in the top 11 scoring charter schools in the city. Tech Prep is the sixth ranked charter high school out of 19, and the #1 high school in Ward 8. Collegiate is the #1 high school in Ward 7. Mrs. Marcus provided more detail on campuses recognized as Bold Performers according to EmpowerK12, noting that Chamberlain Elementary was named the Boldest School for having the highest proficiency rates above expectations. For NWEA MAP fall results, 14 of 15 campuses increased ELA performance and all campuses increased math performance over the prior year.

Mrs. Marcus discussed our approach to supporting student well-being and school culture that is resulting in improved chronic absenteeism rates over prior year. She concluded the report by highlighting the numerous academic, extending learning, and athletics programming offered to Friendship scholars that align with Friendship's Graduate Profile and provided a few examples across campuses that included the Friendship AI Innovation Challenge 2025.

On a motion by Dr. Gregory S. Prince Jr. the board voted unanimously by roll call vote to accept the School Performance Committee report.

Executive Session. On a motion by Dr. Gregory S. Prince Jr. and second by Eric McKinley King, the board voted unanimously by roll call to go into Executive Session at approximately 10:48 AM in accordance with DC Code §2-575(b)(10) discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, performance evaluation, compensation, discipline, demotion, removal, or resignation of public charter school personnel, where the public body is the board of trustees of a public charter school and to train and develop members of a public body and staff of a public body pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(12).

On a motion by Dr. Gregory S. Prince Jr. and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously to close Executive Session at 10:56 AM.

Mr. Hense reported in the public meeting that during closed session, the board voted on a matter related to DC Code §2-575(b)(10). The vote was 9-0. Ms. Patricia Brantley recused herself from the discussion and vote. No additional reportable action was taken.

Adjournment. On a motion by Dr. Gregory S. Prince Jr. and second by Eric McKinley King, the board voted unanimously by roll call in favor of adjourning the meeting at approximately 10:59 AM.