MINUTES

Board of Trustees Meeting
Thursday, October 29, 2026 – 10:00 AM
In-Person and Zoom Meeting

Participating Board Members were: Donald Hense, Chair; Gregory Prince, Vice Chair; Victor E. Long, Secretary; Patricia Brantley, Chief Executive Officer; Carol Thompson Cole, and Anise Walker participated in-person. Unique Fullmore, Parent Representative; Darrin L. Glymph, Treasurer; Deborah McGriff, Jeanette Mendes, Parent Representative (joined at 10:55 AM); and Chris White participated via Zoom.

Ten of the 13 trustees of the board were present at the start of the meeting.

Staff Members in attendance were: Kimberly Campbell, Strategic Advisor; Ken Cherry, Chief of Staff; Dylan Gruver, Chief People Officer; Zac Morford, Chief Performance Officer; Catherine Sanwo, Chief Financial Officer; Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer; James Waller, Chief of School Operations; and Monique Miller, Director of Performance Reporting and Evaluation.

Guest in attendance was Kyle Schafer, Manor Costerisan.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Donald Hense, Chair at approximately 10:05 AM.

Approval of Agenda. On a motion by Deborah McGriff and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the October 29, 2026 meeting agenda. 10-0 in favor.

Approval of Minutes. On a motion by Dr. Gregory S. Prince, Jr. and second by Anise Walker, the board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2026, regular meeting, and June 18, 2026, and October 8, 2026, special board meetings.10-0 in favor.

Finance Update. Catherine Sanwo, Chief Financial Officer introduced the Finance Committee Report reviewed by members of the Committee and included in the board materials. Mrs. Sanwo invited the auditor, Kyle Schafer of Maner Costerisan to start the finance update with a review of the FY 2025 audit results.

Maner Costerisan gave an unmodified opinion of the audit results, noting no material weaknesses or deficiencies with Friendship's internal controls. Other highlights from the report include an increase in asset value and days cash on hand, which is a positive outlook from a liquidity standpoint. Regarding the compliance test of a major federal program, there is a delay as the federal government has not released the final compliance supplement. Finally, Mr. Schafer discussed the audit results and highlights for Friendship's 403b retirement plan that included an unmodified opinion and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies with Friendship's internal controls. Moreover, there was an increase in the number of employees participating in Friendship's plan as well as Friendship's employer and employee contributions indicating improvement in staff retention and satisfaction.

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Mr. Glymph thanked Mr. Schafer for his audit report and shared with the board the Finance Committee's appreciation for the hard work of Catherine and her Finance Team.

Mrs. Sanwo continued the quarterly finance update that included a review of student enrollment, revenues and program expenses, and funding Friendship's reserves. Mrs. Sanwo also stated that Friendship expects to meet all bond reserve requirements and meet the S & P BBB median for charter schools.

Mrs. Sanwo directed the Board's attention to the conflicting interest contract for Dr. Anise Walker who is a Friendship PCS Board of Trustees member. Dr. Walker would provide professional development for Friendship stakeholder groups on topics related to social emotional learning, engagement, and behavior. Staff reviewed the contract and determined it to be fair, reasonable, and consistent with market rates.

On a motion by Victor E. Long and second by Gregory S. Prince Jr., the Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the contract for Anise Walker. Dr. Walker recused herself from the discussion and vote. 9-0 in favor.

On a motion by Darrin L. Glymph, Chair of the Finance Committee, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to accept the Finance Committee Report and the FY 2026 audited financial statements. 9-0 in favor.

School Performance. Dr. Deborah McGriff, Co-Chair of the School Performance Committee, introduced the School Performance Report noting the improved format of the report for easier tracking of data, and comparisons staff use to put Friendship's performance in context in terms of the highest performing DC charters and the city, overall. Dr. McGriff turned the report over to Vielka Scott-Marcus, Chief Academic Officer.

Mrs. Scott-Marcus shared achievement performance, specifically campuses' meeting expectations (4+) on DC CAPE ELA and math and highlighted that Friendship continues to exceed pre-pandemic levels in ELA and continuing to focus on improving math performance for all students. Mrs. Scott-Marcus noted that Friendship's Economically Disadvantaged student group outperformed the Charter Sector and State in ELA and math.

Mrs. Scott-Marcus transitioned the report to Zac Morford, Chief Performance Officer, to review DC CAPE growth. Mr. Morford stated that students are growing faster than their peers statewide in both ELA and math, particularly in grades six through eight and noted grades four and four continue to be an area of focus.

Mrs. Scott-Marcus reviewed charter goals performance noting that Friendship projects an increase in campuses earning Level 1 from six to ten and all remaining campuses earning Level 2. Pat Brantley, Chief Executive Officer, stated that Friendship is proud of what our students have been able to accomplish, noting growth in scores that caused movement from Level 2 to Level 1, and growth within levels.

Mr. Morford reviewed fall NWEA MAP performance noting that returning students are entering the year stronger, particularly in math, and campus performance exceeds pre-pandemic levels in

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both subjects. There is a performance gap between new and returning students and this reinforces the importance of re-enrollment rates, which have increased and the continued need for the strong and earlier support we've implemented.

Mrs. Scott-Marcus discussed academic priorities developed based on our performance and in alignment with Friendship's goals. In addition to a focus on ELA and math performance across student groups, there is a focus on improving chronic absenteeism and implementing strategies and interventions that address the barriers to attendance. Mrs. Scott-Marcus noted that compared to the prior year through September 30, 12 of 15 campuses' chronic absenteeism rates are lower and one campus' rate remained steady and below the target. Mrs. Scott-Marcus closed the report with a brief overview of Friendship's approach to AI for staff and students with safety at the forefront, and the experiences in which students engaged to develop in them the characteristics of Friendship's Graduate Profile.

On a motion by Victor E. Long and second by Chris White the Board voted by roll call to accept the School Performance Committee report. 9-1 in favor.

Adjournment. On a motion by Deborah McGriff and second by Anise Walker, the board voted by roll call (8-1) to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:47 AM. 8-1 in favor.

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