



Fostering Leadership Academy

Regular Board Meeting

April 26, 2021, 4:00 p.m.

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9296514508>

Meeting ID: 929 651 4508

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at by Mr. Hugg at 4:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Unable to Attend
Eric Doeh	X (Belleville)	
Zack Hugg	X (Ferndale)	
Van Nguyen	X (Livonia)	
Dan West	X (Livonia)	
Elizabeth Whittaker-Walker	X (Southfield)	

III. Non-Board Members Attending

Name	Organization/Title
Stephanie Trotter	MCHS, Chief Financial Officer
Melissa Fernandez	MCHS, COO
Kevin Roach	MCHS, Chief Executive Officer
Cheryl Edwards-Cannon	GVSU, School Consultant
Adrian Johnson	FLA, Principal
Cheryl Sugerman	FLA, Vice Principal
Alex Chang	FLA, ELA Teacher

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. Nguyen to approve the Agenda. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon added that the Board would need to vote on the GVSU \$1,000 Technology Grant. The motion was amended and seconded by Mr. West. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Nguyen and was seconded by Mr. Doeh to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.



VI. Public Comment of Agenda Items

Mr. Hugg recognized there were no public comments.

VII. Authorizer Report

Mrs. Edwards-Cannon reported that Board of Directors has extended the approval for virtual meetings for a couple of months but noting that the end date also depends on the county each school is in. Therefore, virtual meetings can continue through May or June 2021. After June 30, board meetings should be in-person with the understanding that there must be a provision to make the meetings accessible to the public (possibly via Zoom) for people in the military and for those people with a medical issue that will prevent them from attending. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon reported that the FLA Board has met the requirements for the ECLP, so after June 30, 2021 the obligation to meet monthly will be lifted and the board can chose to skip holding a meeting in July 2021. GVSU is offering a Tech Grant that FLA can chose to accept or decline. The purpose of the grant is to help offset the cost of making it possible for the board, school and community to have contact. Some suggestions for the grant monies are 1. Meeting Owl Pro - 360-Degree, 1080p HD Smart Video Conference Camera, Microphone, and Speaker 2. 50 inch monitor for the school and board to use to have people join meetings virtually and 3. Speakers/microphones. The board will need to vote regarding acceptance of the GVSU as well as how they will satisfy the grant by the end of May 2021. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon reported that the FLA Board has met the requirements for the GVSU Academic Grant and the Board will receive the grant monies for that as well. On May 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm there will be a virtual meeting for all board members of GVSU schools with a speaker who was one of the first Charter School Advocates. Registration will ask you for a question for the speaker.

Mrs. Edwards-Cannon reminded the Board that they must have an Annual Meeting by fall at the latest where they will pass resolutions in the same manner they did at the first meeting however the list will be shorter. These resolutions can sit inside the regular agenda and be voted on as block. There must also be a budget hearing that is due to the State of Michigan no later than June 30, 2021. Mrs. Trotter must post the hearing in the local paper. The purpose of the meeting is to present the budget proposal to the public and the only agenda item is the budget. Mr. Hugg stated that the last Board Meeting isn't until June 28, 2021 and asked if more time was needed. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon replied that isn't necessarily an issue but the more time they have the better. The budget will be amended and finalized for this year and the proposed budget for next year will be presented. There was discussion about holding the hearing at the May 24, 2021 meeting (changed from May 31, 2021/Memorial Day) then



voting on the proposal at the June 21, 2021 Board Meeting plus not holding a meeting in July 2021. All FLA Board members are available on the two dates so there will be a Public Hearing May 24, 2021 and the Annual Meeting and Budget Approval will be on May 24, 2021.

Mrs. Edwards-Cannon stated that Mr. Doeh's re-appointment to the FLA of Directors will happen on Friday (April 30, 2021) then a confirmation letter will be sent either Friday afternoon or on the following Monday. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon will notarize when Mr. Doeh is sworn in.

VIII. Required Votes

Approval of the extended learning plan. A motion was made by Mrs. Whittaker-Walker and was seconded by Mr. Doeh. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval for accepting the GVSU Technology Grant. A motion was made by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Hugg stated that he would work with Mrs. Fernandez and Mr. Johnson for the best technology choices for FLA.

IX. Principal Updates

Mr. Johnson shared the great news that Enrichment Clubs were running and a great success. The current Clubs will run until May 6, 2021 then another round will begin. Mr. Johnson stated that enrollment is at twenty-one scholars due to scholars being discharged to foster families and other placements. Mr. Johnson also stated that a new Social Studies teacher, Megan Mullins has been hired and will start May 3, 2021. FLA can hire up to four more paraprofessionals in addition to one who will start May 3, 2021. Upcoming events: FLA will be hosting Open Houses on the 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. One family attended on April 23, 2021; M-STEP will be administered on April 28 and May 5, 2021; Parent/Teacher conferences are May 5 and 7, 2021; school will be closed May 24 for Memorial Day. Mr. Johnson reported that FLA is using MAP data (NWEA) to drive instruction and measure academic progress. In order to best serve scholars a 6/7 split class was created. FLA will offer Summer School/Camp this summer for incoming 4th through 8th graders as well as graduating 8th graders. The program will run from July 12 through August 5, 2021 (4 weeks); there will be one hour of math, one hour or ELA then nature and other enrichment activities. Mr. Johnson reported that on a positive note, there has been a reduction in discipline referrals based in part on PBIS programs, the 6th/7th split and enrichment activities.

Mr. Johnson presented the Seat Schedule for FLA which would allow for 75 scholars (15 per grade level) to be enrolled for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Johnson added that there is the possibility for an additional 11% of scholars to attend (eight scholars). Mr. Johnson stated that the Enrollment Goal needs to be voted on for compliance by May 3, 2021. This will drive the budget for the 2021-2022



school year. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon suggested adding a column for open seats and a column for waitlisted potential scholars. Mr. Doeh asked how those numbers are reached, if that is what is being budgeting for. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon indicated that the budget can be created with less scholars but the board needs to approve the goal numbers. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker stated that the Board doesn't want to hurt itself in the end. Mr. Johnson indicated that current outreach includes his participation in the MCHS Fair, promoting the 4th/5th openings, reaching out to Redford Union, advertising on Facebook, MCHS and FLA websites, meeting with Foster care workers who are passing information to clients, signs on Six Mile and yard signs. Mrs. Fernandez informed the Board that MCHS is expecting an increase in residential population through various programs and all 4th-8th graders will attend FLA. Mr. Hugg indicated that the completion of the school building should also bring attention and interest to the school. Mr. Johnson agreed that there is a lot of work to be done, in part because the 4th-6th grade population is transient plus FLA not being a traditional school has the type of population that will cause enrollment to fluctuate.

Mrs. Whittaker-Walker asked by what percentage discipline referral rates have gone down by. Mr. Johnson said he will have that information provided to the Board in the end of year update. Mr. West asked if that in approving an enrollment cap of seventy-five scholars how that would appear in the budget. Mrs. Trotter indicated that there would be a proposal and a discussion of the budget. Mr. West asked if FLA qualifies for COVID relief funds. Mrs. Trotter pointed out that those funds are only available to schools that were in session during the 2019-2020 school year so FLA will not qualify at this time. Mr. Doeh stated that libraries have funds they are releasing to schools, and asked about a strategic plan for mapping out the future of FLA. Mr. Hugg and Mr. Roach stated a Board sub-committee for strategic planning would be a good place to begin the discussion.

Mr. Hugg asked Mr. Johnson if he felt the issue with the scholar facing potential expulsion was resolved satisfactorily. Mr. Johnson stated that the situation showed there were policies and procedures that needed to be reflective of how FLA operates and that has been done. With polices in place the issue was resolved.

A motion was made by Mr. West to have an enrollment goal of 75 scholars plus an 11% buffer for the 2021-2022 school year and was seconded by Mr. Doeh. The motion passed unanimously.

X. Management Report

Mrs. Fernandez indicated that construction is moving forward and the building looks great. Marketing for the school is continuing with the addition of the open houses and a video. Compliance is on track with all documentation up-to-date. Mrs. Fernandez thanked Mr. Johnson and his team, recognizing how difficult it is to be virtual then return to in-person, noting that the FLA staff has done made the transition numerous times with a focus on keeping the scholars education moving forward.



Mrs. Trotter presented the finance report.

Mr. Hugg asked, as he had with Mr. Johnson if MCHS was satisfied with the outcome of the disciplinary action that had been discussed at the last Board meeting. Mrs. Fernandez stated that there were positive outcomes such as a weekly FLA-MCHS meeting to discuss scholars and other issues as they are coming up. Mr. Roach stated that it highlighted the unique role between MCHS and FLA, specifically how to advocate for both sides if there is a conflict. Mr. Roach said that it brought up the topic for himself and Mrs. Fernandez of what is the role for MCHS and if there are options out there, maybe another management company would be better suited to run FLA. He stressed that they are just in the exploratory stage in this discussion. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker asked that if they are in the exploratory process would the Board be able to help as there are a wide range of options that would be available. Mr. Roach stated that as FLA moves forward, MCHS may not be best suited to act as the management company and support from the Board would be welcomed as the decision about what to do is based on the best interests of FLA: what's out there, what is most useful etc. Mr. Hugg stated that Board understood that there would be a learning curve in play with starting a new school asking too if MCHS would want to work with a company to guide them or just have a new management company take over. Mr. Doeh suggested that this discussion be tabled until the next meeting as many on the Board are unaware of what the conflict of interest was and how that would affect future decisions. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker stated there are many components that go into any of these decisions, Discipline is one, structure is another, who would take on the management is huge because school staff work for the management company. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker stated that the vision leads to the structure which influences the budget and therefore the governance. She pointed out that there must be a timeline and a painful process to be worked out when courting a management company. Mr. Doeh stated that it is still not clear to everyone how the discipline issue led to the possible conflict of interest which in turn might affect the structure of the organization. Mr. Hugg stated that management company issues impact discipline issues for staff and scholars, it isn't something that anyone can just walk away from. Mr. Hugg referred back to the annual budget stating that FLA is not bringing in funds and the Board needs to make sure the school is financially secure. Mr. Doeh asked where the issues are coming from; that there is significant concern therefore there needs to be a meeting where the concerns are explained and discussed in-depth. Mr. Hugg agreed that this is a topic that needs to be delved into in the future. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker restated that the budget must be based on the strategic plan and vision. She noted that the tone of the meeting had changed but all can agree that everyone is here to serve the scholars and to make sure that all parties have the best experience possible. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker stated that she would be able to share some notes about best practices. Mr. Roach thanked everyone for the discussion noting that he appreciated the conversation.

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XI. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Hugg asked if there was any public comment. Seeing none, Mr. Hug called for the meeting to adjourn.

XII. Adjournment

Mr. Doeh presented a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Hugg at 5:32pm.

Passed on : May 24th, 2021

President: Zackery Hugg