



**Fostering Leadership Academy**  
Regular Board Meeting  
January 25th, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

- I. Call to Order at 4:03 p.m. by Mr. Hugg
- II. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Unable to Attend
Eric Doeh - Belleville, MI	X	
Van Nguyen - Livonia, MI	X	
Dan West - Livonia, MI	X	
Elizabeth Whittaker-Walker - Oakland County	X	
Zackery Hugg - Ferndale, MI	X	

- III. Non-Board Members Attending

Attendee	Organization
Melissa Fernandez	Methodist Children’s Home Society
Rachel Martoia	Methodist Children’s Home Society
Tameka Ward	Methodist Children’s Home Society
Adrian Johnson	Fostering Leadership Academy
Cheryl Edwards-Cannon	Grand Valley State University
Jasmine Lerma	Fostering Leadership Academy
Kevin Roach	Methodist Children’s Home Society

- IV. Approval of Agenda.  
A motion was made by Ms. Nguyen and seconded by Mr. Doeh. The motion passed unanimously.
- V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

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A motion was made by Ms. Nguyen and seconded by Mr. Doeh. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Comment of Agenda Items

Mr. Hugg recognized that there were no public comments.

VII. Authorizer Report

Ms. Edwards-Cannon discussed the board training opportunities via webinar through Grand Valley State University. Board members were asked to notify Ms. Edwards-Cannon if they were not receiving notices. Additionally, Ms. Edwards-Cannon noted Mr. Doeh's board seat will be up for reappointment this year. If he chooses to, the board can vote to reapprove his reappointment in February. His new term will begin in July.

Lastly, the Conflict-of-Interest packets have been sent out and should be completed and sent to Methodist Children's Home Society.

VIII. Required Votes

Approved Extended/Hybrid learning Plan – A motion was made by Mr. West and seconded by Ms. Nguyen. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of 2020- 2021 School Calendar. No vote is required since no changes have been made to the calendar.

IX. Principal Updates

As of January, there are 29 scholars enrolled at FLA. FLA is currently looking at enrollment efforts for next year with the marketing team when fourth and fifth grades will be added. Mr. Johnson has also pushed for FLA literature (pamphlets) to be present in MCHS's foster care office and for foster care workers to take literature with them on home visits. FLA is considering the idea of offering transportation next year to students in the community. Mr. Johnson will also be speaking about FLA on MCHS' Brewing Love Facebook live sessions. There is hope that potential students and their families will be able to tour the new school by June. MCHS has also started an emergency shelter program. The children in that program will attend FLA if appropriate.

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Mr. Johnson reported FLA is currently contracting with a new special education company. FLA is now using Futures Education Inc. They have provided a special education teacher, Elizabeth Franklin, who will be acting as the special education coordinator as well. Futures have also provided a speech therapist, a psychologist and an occupational therapist. FLA has also hired an in house special education teacher, Andrea Williams. FLA is still actively searching to fill two teaching positions.

Mr. Johnson reported report cards will be distributed on January 29<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a behavior incentive for scholars who have done well since school has resumed. Additionally, all students (including virtual) will be tested on NWEA (MAP) in person. Acadience testing has been completed in order to assess the current performance of the scholars. Those tests showed limited growth, but no regression. Some growth is expected on the NWEA MAP scores.

Ms. Whittaker-Walker asked if there were any metrics that could be shared with the board in efforts to demonstrate performance of the scholars. Mr. Hugg also requested that the testing metrics can be included in the next Principal's Report. Mr. Johnson will share a review of the NWEA scores and what growth, if any has been made. It was noted that due to the challenges related to the student population, the pandemic, and continuous fluctuation between remote and in-person learning, growth would be limited.

Ms. Whittaker- Walker asked why FLA decided to move to a different company for special education services. Mr. Johnson said that decision was made based on how scholars were being serviced and questions regarding billing for services.

Ms. Whittaker-Walker asked for a disciplinary update and requests that a report be included in the board report in future Principal Reports. She also asked if there has been any tracking of any increases or decreases in the amount of discipline referrals. Mr. Johnson said that there have been a few incidents and one student is currently suspended who needs additional support. Additional information will be provided in subsequent reports.

Mr. Roach thanked Mr. Johnson for continuing to address the challenges faced at FLA, noting the highly maladaptive behaviors of youth that stems from significant trauma and mental health needs.

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Ms. Whittaker-Walker requested FLA's goals are included in the Principal Report and reported monthly, as well as the addition of a section reporting on academic progress with enough detail to keep the board informed. Additional information will be provided.

Mr. Hugg said that Mr. Johnson has the board's support and thanks him for taking on the challenges at FLA.

X. Management Report

Mrs. Fernandez reported the estimated completion date for the new school is June of 2021. Furniture design has begun and is trauma informed, keeping colors and textures in mind. Fundraising for the new building continues, as well as a new website. Mrs. Fernandez has been in touch with Wayne County Family Court to encourage referrals to FLA. She also requested conflict of interest forms be completed and returned to her by January 30th. Mrs. Fernandez noted FLA continues to update emergency plans, incident reports and procedures. Lastly, Mrs. Fernandez reported there are currently no children in quarantine and all scholars who were previously in person came back to in person instruction.

There was discussion on the disparities are between virtual and in person learning. Mr. Johnson stated that there are significant socioemotional differences between virtual and in person learning. Staff can tell how in person learners feel when they arrive. It is easier to build relationships in person. That is hard to do with virtual learners. Mr. Johnson also stated that is hard to offer additional academic support to virtual learners. Ms. Fernandez stated that the parents of one student expressed that the scholar was in an emotionally disturbed state when school was not in session.

There was discussion equitable socioemotional learning for virtual students, which Mr. Johnson outlined as scholars participate in a socioemotional class every morning and have access to the school social worker. Parents can make the decision to have students virtual or in person.

There was discussion on COVID vaccination. Mr. Roach reported that MCHS is current awaiting notification from Wayne County but there is a waitlist. MCHS is in regular contact with Wayne County and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Ward provided a financial update on behalf MCHS. In November, FLA received cash payments from the state and reimbursement from Wayne RESA for staff trainings. Expenses reflect staffing fluctuations and expenses for virtual learning. The official count number for FLA

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was 22 scholars, but that will be amended. Ms. Ward said that the Title I funding application has been submitted and FLA has been approved for the school lunch program grant. Mr. Hugg said that the favorable expenditures were good news and demonstrates that funds are coming in to FLA.

XI. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Edwards-Cannon discussed the Grand Valley State University survey project that has been sent to FLA teachers regarding their classroom and resources available. All classroom teachers should complete this survey before the window closes on February 12<sup>th</sup>. There is a financial incentive for teachers to complete this survey.

Ms. Whittaker-Walker asked that information about the teachers be collected from the students and be presented in the next meeting in order to collect baseline data and check the morale of students. She also asked that FLA consider distributing culturally affirming climate survey. Ms. Whittaker-Walker states that this will be good as the school is still in the building stages.

XII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Hugg at 4:58 p.m.

Passed on: 3.1.2021

Secretary: 