



**Fostering Leadership Academy**

Regular Board Meeting

May 24, 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 4:01 p.m.

II. Roll Call

Board Member	Present	Unable to Attend
Eric Doeh		X
Zack Hugg	X (Ferndale)	
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, Chief Operating Officer
Carolyn Watson	MCHS, Chief Advancement Officer
Cheryl Edwards-Cannon	GVSU, School Consultant, Charter Schools Office
Adrian Johnson	FLA, Principal
Cheryl Sugerman	FLA, Vice Principal
Alex Chang	FLA, ELA Teacher
Rachael Martioa	MCHS, Director of Administrative Services

IV. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. West to approve the Agenda. Mr. Hugg added that there were some additions to the agenda: adding the Budget Meeting to the agenda as "e" after the Management Report. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker also added that she would present a quick note on strategic planning and best practices. Mr. Hugg indicated that would be before the Action Items on the agenda. The motion was amended and seconded by Mrs. Whittaker-Walker. The motion passed unanimously.



#### V. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mrs. Whittaker-Walker to approve the minutes from the April 2021 meeting with a few amendments. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker stated that as an FLA Board member there are certain services that are integral to her position and she is happy to share. She wanted to clarify that she is not asking for a contract as that would be a conflict of interest. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the minutes from the April 26, 2021 Board meeting would be amended to: "Mrs. Whittaker-Walker stated that she would be able to share some notes about best practices." with revisions the motion was seconded by Mr. West. The motion passed unanimously.

#### VI. Public Comment of Agenda Items

Mr. Hugg recognized there were no public comments.

#### VII. Principal Updates

Mr. Johnson shared that the second round of Enrichment Clubs were running with scholar added club activities. The new session includes Lego, Beyblades and Board games and Gardening. The gardening club planted tomatoes, carrots, peppers and strawberries. A committee has started to plan an 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion celebration that will include a ceremony and a lunch. Mr. West asked the time of the event: June 22, 10:30-11:30. Mr. Johnson informed the Board they will be receiving invitations. Another committee is planning a field day to celebrate the end of the 2020-221 school year. Enrollment is steady. Megan Mullins started, she is the new Social Studies teachers, Taliyah Brooks will be starting on Wednesday, she is the third paraprofessional. Mr. Johnson explained that open houses which were only scheduled for afterschool will be held during the day. The reasoning is to let families see that the scholars are like their children and how staff and teachers handle meltdowns and blowups. NWEA MAP testing has started with the theme that "FLA scholars will BLOW the test out of the water" and "Scholars will make their minds POP with good answers." Along with that is a door decorating contest with the Blow Pop theme.

Mr. Johnson informed the board that because there are less behavioral issues there has been more time to focus on academics and recruitment. He has reached out to other foster care facilities, mental health facilities and professionals including Lincoln Behavioral Services as well as the foster care and licensing department at MCHS. Lawn signs are also being places strategically around the Redford area.

Mrs. Whittaker-Walker asked if it was possible for the Board to see what the FLA/MCHS recruitment plan looks like. For instance it is important to know how many eligible students are out there? She explained that looking at numbers will drive recruitment strategies, for example, do we know how the decision is made when foster children are being placed in schools? These are the types of driver questions to make sure we are starting in the right place. Mr. Johnson said he would love to sit down





with Mrs. Whittaker-Walker to discuss this further. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker and Mr. Johnson will set up a time to meet.

Discipline Report: There will be an expulsion hearing for a scholar who brought weapons to school, threatened Mr. Johnson as well as self-harm. A Manifestation Determination Review (MDR) was held and it was determined that the actions was not a manifestation of the scholar's disability. The virtual expulsion hearing is set for 4:30 on Wednesday, May 26, 2021. Mr. Hugg asked if the school's legal counsel has been notified, Mr. Johnson explained that they had been and he was waiting for a follow-up from them. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon stated that quorum of the Board must be present for the expulsion. Mr. Hugg, Mr. West and Mrs. Whittaker-Walker all stated they were available to attend. Mr. West asked if there was any leeway in this situation. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon explained that there really isn't because of the weapon but that no situation is ever a slam dunk. She further offered to assist with creating an agenda that she would forward to Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Fernandez.

#### VIII. Authorizer Report

Mrs. Edwards-Cannon stated that Mr. Doeh's re-appointment to the FLA of Directors was approved and there is still time so he will be sworn in at the June 2021 Board meeting. She informed the Board that they can remain virtual through June 2021. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon thanked Mr. Hugg for attending the virtual GVSU Board reception where FLA received recognition as being a school that opened this year. She asked the Board to please complete the anonymous Evaluation of Service Provider survey that will be used to help plan for next year and as springboard for what the board needs to learn. Mr. Hugg stated that in lieu of a July Board meeting everyone should complete the form.

#### IX. Management Report

Mrs. Fernandez reported that the school building is on track for a summer opening, despite a small setback with cabinets. She reported that we are on time with compliance in Epicenter. Following MDHHS and MiOSHA COVID guidelines all people on MCHS/FLA campus will continue to wear masks. There have been no recent positive tests.

Development: Summer school is not yet finalized; Marketing is doing a great job promoting it. FLA and MCHS Residential team weekly meetings are continuing. Mr. Fernandez stated that while MCHS is looking at how to best serve FLA they are running away from supporting FLA. Mr. Hugg asked that this remain a permanent agenda item.

#### X. Budget Meeting

Mrs. Trotter presented the 2021-2022 Proposed Budget based on FLA having fifty scholars for the school year. General Fund Revenue Assumptions with a proposed 2021-2022 total revenue of \$844,913. Operating Expenditures in the proposed budget total \$844,265 leaving and ending fund balance of

\$648.00. The Food Service Budget Proposal for 2021-2022 has a total revenue of \$83,987 and total expenditures of \$81,110 leaving an ending fund balance of \$2,877.

The General Fund accounts for all operating revenue and expenditures of FLA with the exception of nutritional services. The Lunch Fund accounts for all revenue and expenditures associated with the school meal program.

Mrs. Edwards-Cannon asked about ESSER Funds. Mrs. Trotter explained that as those funds are tied to Title I FLA did not qualify for them this year.

Mrs. Trotter explained that staff costs have been covered by MCHS. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker asked what will happen if there is not enough income to cover those costs in the future and if that commitment would remain if MCHS was no longer the management company for FLA. Mrs. Trotter stated that MCHS is committed to cover those costs and that this will continue to be a conversation with the Board. Mrs. Edwards-Cannon stated that on the west side of the state parents decide where their children will be going to school in January although it appears to be different in the area FLA is located. She indicated that the management company should come to a meeting to discuss these plans. Mr. Hugg stated that there will always be a decline in enrollment at FLA due to the nature of the students the school is serving. Mr. Johnson referred to the places he has already reached out to and stated that he would continue to grow that list.

#### XI. Strategic Plan

Mrs. Whittaker-Walker explained that a Strategic Plan at a Glance is a way to keep the strategic plan connected to the goals and vision of the school which gives FLA the ability to fulfill its purpose. She asked if anyone was familiar with the OKR Model. Some schools have a three year plan, gives the schools something they are driving toward and the ability to set priorities for each year as they are working toward the goal. Questions: what drives the mission forward, what budget is needed to accomplish these goals? One idea to track this is a "Quarter (x) Step back." This document can be reviewed monthly and quarterly to see how FLA is doing in specific tracked areas. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker pointed out that currently FLA has some of the information but haven't seen yet how all the dots are connected. Mr. Johnson said this type of document would help him present the information the Board is looking for and asked for electronic copies. Mr. Hugg added that this will help MCHS focus as well. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker will share the links with Mr. Johnson; once the vision and the priorities have been set the Board will help to share in the process.

Mr. Hugg stated that Mr. Doeh and Mrs. Whittaker-Walker will help formulate the structure of the strategic plan and stated that the Board will need at least a few weeks to a month notice as to when





the Strategic Planning will be. Mr. West added that the expectation of the reporting is tough in a new organization. Having reports/information prescribed will be helpful.

#### X. Annual Meeting Action Items

Mr. West asked what the next steps are as Ms. Van Nguyen has resigned from the FLA Board leaving an open position. Mr. Hugg stated that the Board needs to have a discussion and plan and would welcome recommendations from MCHS for FLA Board members. Mrs. Whittaker-Walker asked of the Board should be looking for any specific core competencies such as finance, social workers etc. Mr. Hugg agreed that they should be looking at gaps in expertise and fill those gaps.

A motion was made by Mr. West to table the approval of election offices and take an omnibus vote on motions b, c, d, e, f, g, h, and i:

- b - Appointment of FOIA Officer – FLA Principal
- c - Designation of Chief Administrative Officer – FLA Board Treasurer
- d - Designation of Office of Civil Rights – FLA Principal
- e – Designation of Compliance Officer – FLA Administrative Assistant
- f – Re-affirm Board Legal Counsel – Clark-Hill
- g- Designation of AHERA Contact – MCHS Chief Operating Officer
- h – Designation of Title VI, Title IX and Section 504 Coordinator - FLA Principal
- i – Safety Liaison Designee - FLA Principal

Motion was seconded by FLA Mrs. Whittaker-Walker. The motion passed unanimously.

#### XI. Action Items

Mrs. Whittaker-Walker made a motion for an omnibus vote in action items a, b, c, d, and e.

- a. Approval of the 2012-2022 School Calendar.
- b. Approval of the 2021-2022 Board Calendar.
- c. Resolution Approved Extended/Hybrid Learning Plan
- d. Approval of Charter Contract Amendment-Terms and Conditions, Amendment and Schedule 7-4
- e. Approval of the 2021-2022 Initial Board Proposal

Motion was seconded by Mr. West. The motion passed unanimously.

#### X. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Mr. Hugg recognized there was no public comment.

#### XI. Adjournment

Mr. Hugg presented a motion to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned by Mr. Hugg at 5:12pm.



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EMPOWERMENT.  
EDUCATION.



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Passed on : June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Secretary: *Dr. J. Hart*