



**Public Board Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2022**

Meeting Start Time: 6:04 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:14 pm

In Attendance (Via Zoom): Shannon Tumolo, Sarah Nagle, Rebecca Phillips, Meghan Newberry, Kim Lopez, Courtney Fox, Matt Petrin, and Loren Holland

Regrets: Janine Salomone, Michael Reilly, and Avery Stewart

Guests: Courtney Loughney, Tova Rein, Debbie Briers, and Markevis Gideon

Public Comment

- The Board received on public comment from Debbie Briers. She discussed Governor Carney lifting the requirement for students and teachers to wear masks in school starting April 1st. She expressed her disappointment that FSMA has not decided that beginning April 1st parents will automatically have the choice to mask or unmask their children. Instead FSMA has reported that the COVID committee would meet and use lots of information to make a decision on masks. She noted that in Delaware and New Castle County, new COVID cases are declining along with hospitalizations. She reported that the high majority of children with COVID are asymptomatic or have very mild symptoms. She believes the data shows that all children have a greater than 99% of recovery and wants parents to choose whether their children will be vaccinated and masked. She wants children to be able to have a healthy normal year and be able to fully see each other's faces. She also wants children to be told that they will not get their classmates ill if they remove their masks. She wants the Board to do what is right for the children by giving them the choice to unmask. Wearing masks sends the message that school is unsafe.

Approval Public Minutes

- The minutes from the January 27, 2022, public board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the January 27, 2022, public board minutes was made by M. Petrin. Second by K. Lopez. Vote passed. No objections. No abstentions.

Website Monitoring Report from Department of Education

- The website monitoring report was reviewed.
 - There is a new format for the report.
 - The report shows that all sections were in compliance with the Department of Education requirements.

Head of School Report

The Head of School provided updates to the Board on the following:

- **Draft Calendar for 2022-2023**
 - FSMA follows the State's regulation that requires a minimum of 1060 instructional hours for students in grades K-11.
 - The calendar must be Board approved and submitted to the Department of Education each year.



- The calendar is similar to previous calendars. The only change is the addition of 3 half days for Professional Staff Development.
- The Hours for the school year are 1074 instructional hours. If lunch is included, it is 1157 hours. At FSMA the teachers engage with students during lunch and arguably could also be counted at instructional time.
- The Holidays are selected based on whether 5% of the population celebrate a holiday.
- FSMA's calendar is similar to some of the surrounding districts. There are a couple less days than other districts, however the school day at FSMA are longer.
- A motion to approve the 2022-2023 calendar was made by K. Lopez. Second by S. Tumolo. Vote passed. No objections. No abstentions.
- **Covid Related Updates**
 - The Covid Committee re-reviewed the Visitor/Volunteer Policy in light of the Happy Hearts event coming up.
 - Happy Hearts will be moving forward with everyone wearing masks.
 - Next Steps:
 - Governor's Masking Order ends 3/31
 - The Covid Committee will be meeting weekly starting on 2/28
 - 13 members on the committee.
 - Comprised of staff, parents, and Board members
 - Guidance from DOE is coming
 - FSMA is working on shifting from the original guidance, where the goal was to eliminate all risk, to learning how to function with some risk.
 - The committee will be reviewing local data to make a decision that is right for FSMA in regard to our current policies (including masking).
 - The intent is to look at this from all angles and consider a variety of perspectives in order to make recommendations/decisions that are right for our community. The committee will get feedback from staff and families.
- **Celebrations/Acknowledgements**
 - UD Students/Student Teachers
 - There are over 20 UD student teachers at FSMA right now
 - Basketball Teams
 - AMS Conference – Thank you, PTO!
 - The PTO is funding 9 staff members to attend the AMS Conference in Nashville
 - Student Council and other Middle School Groups
 - Best Buddies
 - This is an Upper School program where students meet after school once a month to create inclusive initiatives for the school.
 - Paws for People
 - Attended the teacher Inservice Day

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report

M. Newberry reported that the Executive Committee meeting for February was moved to next week so the Executive Committee will have an update at the March meeting.



Development Committee Report

B. Phillips. provided the Development report. The development Committee is in the middle of planning the DoMore 24 campaign. The committee is working on putting together some email communications and social media posts. The committee plans to focus on getting as many donations as possible during the incentive hours, which provide extra money if certain qualifiers are met. This year's goal is 250 donors. Last year there were 193. Please reach out to B. Phillips if you are interested in serving on the Development Committee.

Finance Committee Report

M. Petrin reviewed the January Narrative. Through the month of January, FMSA collected approximately \$723,000 in revenues, the majority of which were remaining state funds and federal funds. No material revenue items are outstanding. Expenses are in track at approximately \$5.5 million. State revenues came in a little bit higher. Total reserves are unchanged. Expecting an increase of approximately \$100,000 related to summer pay reserves. A \$241,000 tuition tax bill was submitted to the Department of Education.

A motion to approve and post the monthly web report and finance narrative was made by S. Tumolo. Second by K. Lopez. Vote passed. No objections. No abstentions.

Governance Committee Report

- S. Tumolo and K. Lopez provided an update.
- The Committee last met on February 17th. The committee has three areas of focus for 2022:
 1. finalizing the bylaw review;
 2. finalized the parent-teacher election process; and
 3. building a succession plan for Board staffing and onboarding process for new Board members.
- With respect to the bylaws, the goal is to have updated bylaws brought to the Board in April for a vote. M. Reilly will be looking at the process for the Parent and Teacher Board member election process as part of the bylaws review.
- As to onboarding and adding new members to the Board, a proposed plan was created and shared with the Board.
 - The Committee is also reviewing the application process and service opportunities. K. Lopez previously shared an updated copy for the committee to review, which will be shared with the Board in March.
 - There is currently an applicant interested. S. Tumolo will reach out to her and schedule a meet and greet.
- S. Tumolo reached out to DANA to discuss training opportunities for the Board.
- The committee is also developing a checklist of Board member checklist and requirements. This will be brought to a future Board meeting for review.
- M. Newberry will be reaching out to all members of the Board to have informal check-ins.

Executive Session

A motion to move into Executive Session made by M. Petrin. Second by B. Phillips. Moved into Executive Session at 6:53 pm. Returned from Executive Session at 7:14 PM.

Motion to adjourn by M. Petrin. Second by K. Lopez. Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm.