



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

**Meeting Start Time:** 6:06 pm

**Meeting Adjourned:** 7:31 pm

**In Attendance** (Via Zoom): Michael Reilly, Shannon Tumolo, Kim Lopez, Rebecca Phillips, Sarah Nagle Loren Holland, Janine Salomone, and Sarah Nagle (6:28)

**In Attendance (in person):** Meghan Newberry and Courtney Fox

**Regrets:** Matt Petrin and Avery Stewart

**Guests:** Martha and Lincoln Narvaez, Meaghan Harris, Oliver Lemy, Emerson, and Ever Foret

**Comments from the Board Chair:** The Board Chair expressed gratitude to the FSMA Community for supporting FSMA the past couple of months. **She specifically thanked the community for making the Happy Hearts event successful, the DoMore 24 campaign, and their overall dedication to the school.**

**Public Comment**

- There was no public comment

**Approval Public Minutes**

- The minutes from the February 24, 2022, public board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the February 24, 2022 public board minutes was made by M. Reilly. Second by K. Lopez. Vote passed. No objections. No abstentions.

**Website Monitoring Report from Department of Education**

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

**Head of School Report**

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

- **AMS Conference**
  - o 9 staff members from FSMA attended went to Tennessee for the American Montessori Conference.
  - o They attended sessions on Montessori related topics and had an opportunity to engage with Montessori teachers from across the country.
- **Best Buddies Initiative**
  - o Meaghan Harris, the teacher for the Best Buddies program, shared information about the Best Buddies Program. There were also some students involved in the program that shared their experience and the work they are doing.



- o Best Buddies is an international organization that looks to create leaders who teach others to be more accepting and advocates for individuals with intellectual disabilities. FSMA focuses on students with all disabilities.
- o Some of the students shared what they do in the program, how they promote kindness and acceptance of others, things they learned, and their favorite things about the program.
- o Part of the goal is to get other students to understand disabilities and to create leaders and advocates.
- **Upcoming Legislation that Impacts Charter Schools**
  - o An overview of the current legislative items impacting Charter Schools in Delaware was provided.
    - House Bill 238. This was heard in committee two weeks ago it's an act that repeals the ability of a charter school to give preference to students who reside within five miles of the school. Looking to remove the 5 mile radius preference. There are three schools that use the five mile radius as a preference, FSMA is one of them.
      - The Head of School provided comments on the rationale of why FSMA started using the five mile preference. A discussion ensued on the other preferences used for admission at FSMA.
    - House Bill 353. This bill pauses the granting of new charters and modifications of charters in New Castle County and creates a Charter Advisory Group to determine the impact of Charters in New Castle County. It puts a moratorium on Charter Schools until 2024. It also applies to all modifications by existing Charter Schools before 2024.
      - The Head of School discussed the types of modifications FSMA has done in the past and the types of modifications that *could* occur in the next two years, but would be prohibited from occurring under this new legislation.
    - House Bill 352. This bill would permit a new Charter School application or expansion to be denied solely based on impact. There is some concern because there is no definition of impact so it is not clear what the "impact" to deny a Charter could look like. The Head of School discussed the current mechanisms in place by the Department of Education for impact.
      - This has not been heard by the House yet. Waiting for a date.
  - o The Head of School reported that the Charter Schools were trying to educate people on some of the great things Charter Schools do in order to encourage people to see the work that is happening at Charter Schools throughout Delaware.
  - o Comments were shared by the Board members on ways to address the legislation and what the legislation means for FSMA.

## Committee Reports

### **Executive Committee Report**

M. Newberry reported that part of the Executive Committee was able to meet on Monday before the Board meeting. The Executive Committee touched on many of the items that will be discussed during the Finance, Development, and Governance Committee reports and have nothing to report outside of those other committee reports.



### ***Governance Committee Report***

- S. Tumolo and M. Reilly provided the Governance update. The big area of focus is the review of the bylaws. The committee is also in correspondence with the new Board candidate and is in the process of setting up a tour with the school. The committee is also meeting with DANA (Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement) on Monday to discuss possible training.
- M. Reilly reported that the committee has prepared some draft modifications to the bylaws regarding the parent director election process. It will give the Board more flexibility on how the elections can run more effectively. They are also looking at the teacher director election process.
- The Governance Committee will next share the draft bylaws with the Executive Committee and plan to share a copy with the full board by the April meeting. The goal is to get the bylaws modified by the end of the school year.
- M. Newberry reminded everyone that she will be reaching out to Board members for informal check-ins about their future with their Board. She would like to have them all finalized within the next two weeks.

### ***Development Committee Report***

B. Phillips provided the Development report. An update on the DoMore24 campaign was shared. Thank you letters were shared with everyone who donated during the campaign. FSMA surpassed both of their goals. There was financial goal to raise \$15,000. FSMA raised \$21,456. There was also a goal to get over 251 donors. FSMA received 256 donors. FSMA won five different bonus challenges throughout the campaign. B. Phillips will check to see if our final number included the stretch pool money, which is extra bonus money.

### ***Finance Committee Report***

C. Fox provided the Finance update. The February Narrative Report was reviewed. It was reported that the Finance Committee has started to look at the budget for the next school year. An update on the local tuition bill and local funds was discussed. The Department of Education created a work group to work through the issues. They have proposed a fix for now and to continue to look at the formula. The fix for now does get us very close to what we believe FSMA was owed. The Department of Education will continue to look at the formula over time. There will be no funds for this year given and it is all starting for next year's funds.

A motion to approve and the financial monthly narrative was made by J. Salomone. Second by M. Reilly. Vote passed. No objections. No abstentions.

### ***Executive Session***

A motion to move into Executive Session made by K. Lopez. Second by S. Tumolo. Moved into Executive Session at 7:02 pm. Returned from Executive Session at 7:30 PM.

**Motion to adjourn by M. Reilly. Second by J. Salomone. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.**