



**Public Board Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2023**

Meeting Start Time: 6:11 pm

Meeting Adjourned: 7:00 pm

In Attendance (In Person): Matt Petrin, Becky Phillips, Loren Holland, Meghan Newberry, and Anabelle O'Malley

In Attendance (via Zoom/phone): Kim Lopez, Sarah Nagle, Janine Salomone, and Courtney Fox

Regrets: Shannon Tumolo, Kristen Gideon, and Michael Reilly

Guests: Liz Madden and Stacey Clark

Public Comment

No public comments were received via email or in person at the anchor location.

Comments from the Board Chair

M. Newberry took some time to provide a summary of the 8th grade graduation. The 8th grade graduation was on June 9, 2023. 42 students graduated. M. Newberry also shared photos of the graduation.

Approval Public Minutes

The minutes from the May 25, 2023, public board meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve the May 25, 2023, public board meeting minutes was made by A. O'Malley. Second by B. Phillips. Vote passed. No objections. 1 abstention from M. Petrin.

Website Monitoring Report from the Department of Education

- As of the date of the meeting, the website monitoring report was not received.

Head of School Report

The Head of School provided an update on the following:

- Water Lead Sampling Results
 - FSMA's results showed there was no detection of lead in any of the samples from both buildings.
 - All public schools participated in testing the lead levels of the water in the schools.
 - The results will be shared with families later in the week.
- Teacher Retention
 - Teacher retention numbers were discussed.
 - The statistics were compared to prior years.
 - The numbers show that FSMA has stayed strong and consistent with teacher retention over the years.



- o C. Fox expressed the importance of teacher retention in light of the teacher shortage.
 - o K. Lopez requested information on the demographic data for the teachers.
- Student Retention
 - o C. Fox reported that the student retention numbers were high for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - o The different reasons why families choose not to return were highlighted.
- Student demographics
 - o C. Fox reported the information on student demographics. There hasn't been a drastic change in the demographics of the student population, but the goal is to continue to work to make strides for a diverse population.
- Extended School Year (ESY) Presentation by Stacey Clark
 - o Stacey Clark has been FSMA's Special Education Coordinator since January of this year.
 - o She provided an overview of ESY and how students qualify for the program.
 - o FSMA has 104 students with an Individualized Education Plan ("IEP"). 45 of those students qualified for either a 12-month program, ESY, or reading based program.
 - o Approximately 26 students submitted the form indicating their intention to attend ESY or the 12-month program.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee Report

M. Newberry reported that the Executive Committee was not able to meet this month because the meeting fell on Juneteenth, which is a state holiday.

M. Newberry requested an update from J. Salomone on the streetlight matter with the City of Wilmington. C. Fox reported that FSMA's proposed contract was submitted to the City but they are still waiting to hear back from the City.

M. Newberry reminded everyone that the July and August meeting is going to be combined. It will be held on August 3rd. The annual meeting will also occur on August 3rd. The meeting will be hybrid with a request for people to be in person if possible. M. Newberry also let people know that the Delaware Charter School Network Summit was also taking place on August 3rd in Dover. It's a good opportunity to understand what is going on in Delaware Charter Schools and have the ability to network and brainstorm together.

Development Committee Report

B. Phillips provided an update for the Development Committee. It was reported that it was confirmed that the anniversary party can be held at The Mill's space in downtown Wilmington. Once the new school year starts, communications will be sent to parents to assist and join The



Ten-Year Anniversary committee. The Ten-Year Anniversary celebration will be sometime in the spring of 2024. The date has not been confirmed yet.

Governance Committee Report

M. Newberry provided an update for governance as S. Tumolo and M. Reilly were not able to attend the board meeting. The Governance Committee meeting fell on Father's Day, so they were not able to meet in June. Governance is working on finalizing interviews for potential new board members. They are also looking at next year's board meeting calendar due to multiple conflicts on a Thursday night for the 2023-2024 school year.

Finance Committee Report

M. Petrin provided the finance committee report. The finance narrative for May was reviewed. There were approximately \$139,000 of revenue received, the majority being a final allocation of federal funds. It was also learned that we are receiving interest on our funds held by the state. M. Petrin intends to look into how the interest is calculated. We are in a good position from a revenue standpoint. Expenses to date are approximately \$8.5 million which represents 86% of the budget expenditures for the year. This includes the contingencies for the year. Reserves are unchanged at \$1.4 million. There is an expectation that the year end cash balance will increase by \$443,000 to \$2.8 million. The preliminary budget is expected to be presented in August, which is when the teacher salary increases by the state will be discussed. A motion to approve and post the May finance narrative was made by B. Phillips. Second by M. Petrin. Vote passed. No objections. No Abstentions.

C. Fox provided an update on what they anticipate regarding the Governor's proposed budget related to increases of teacher salaries. The Governor's proposed budget has a strong commitment to increasing educator salaries in Delaware. Currently, the proposed budget has a 3% increase in the funding of the state portion of teacher salaries for everyone that works in the school except for administrators. There is also potentially an additional 6% increase. The Finance committee is looking at the numbers to determine what we can fund based on the Governor's plan to increase teacher salaries. The plan is to have set numbers to present to the board at the August meeting.

Motion to adjourn by M. Petrin. Second by A. O'Malley. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.