



Freedom Preparatory Academy Charter Schools

Minutes

December Governance Board Meeting

Date and Time

Tuesday December 4, 2018 at 3:30 PM

Location

3750 Millbranch Rd.

Directors Present

A.Turner (remote), C. Jackson, C. Orrin, D. Lyles-Wallace (remote), J. Cornes, B.Landau

Directors Absent

C.Ettingoff, M.Jones

Freedom Prep Leadership Present

C.Clark Gwin (CFO), L.Nelson(CAO), M.Brown(CSO), S.Salaam(CPO), R.Webb(CEO)

Guests Present

C.Wallace

I. Opening Items

A. Record Attendance and Guests

B. Call the Meeting to Order

C. Orrin called a meeting of the board of directors of Freedom Preparatory Academy Charter Schools to order on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 @ 3:30 PM at 3570 Millbranch Rd. Memphis, TN 38116.

C. Approve Minutes

B. Landau made a **motion** to approve minutes from the June Board Meeting on 06-28-2018. A. Turner **seconded** the motion. The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion. Motion Carried.

II. Governing Board

A. 2019 Board Meeting Dates

R.Webb notes that FPA currently has meetings every other month and that it is more efficient for the FPA board to move to quarterly meetings. She also mentions that they are in the process of interviewing more board members.

The board had discussion regarding the timing and frequency of the board meetings. The topic was tabled for future consideration.

III. Strategic Growth Planning (Freedom Fellows Institute)

R.Webb states that FPA has grown and gotten better in the last 10 years. They continue to perform well academically.

R. Webb states that in an effort to best serve our target areas, FPA isn't interested in expanding nationally. However, Freedom Prep has the resources to teach others who are interested in learning the FPA model. R.Webb has submitted an RFP to receive funding for a fellowship. The proposed program is compared to Building Excellence Schools but for people of color.

L. Nelson proposes that the Freedom Fellows Institute will have a mutualistic financial benefit for the Freedom Prep network. Fellowship staffing opportunities would allow more funds to be used to support the schools within the network. L.Nelson states that they want to open up another Freedom Prep school in 2020.

R.Webb talks about the structure of the fellowship, the benefits to FPA and the risks as well as how to mitigate these risks. The fellowship will be completely funded externally, no FPA money goes towards the fellowship. However, it will be a subsidiary of FPA. The Walton foundation has expressed interest in supporting the proposed fellowship.

The school and the fellow institute would be non profit LLCs under Freedom Prep Inc, with L.Nelson leading the schools division and M.Brown leading the fellowship, so FPA doesn't have to apply for an additional 501C3.

C.Orrin proposes that they move forward with pursuing the fellowship after FPA leadership reports back with a full proposal and the contingency of getting the funding.

B.Landau leaves the call at 4:37pm. (Work Emergency)

C. Jackson made a **motion** to establish the Freedom Fellows Institute. J.Cornes **seconded** the motion. **The Board VOTED to approve this motion. Motion Carried.**

IV. Facilities

C.Clark notes that the Millbranch campus is at full capacity due to co-location and both schools require additional space. One of the plans is to put modulars down so the Millbranch campus can be renovated.

Clark states that an alternative to modulars is to purchase Lanier Middle School and make it a new location for FPA High School allowing the school to increase in size. This shift would allow the middle

school at the millbranch campus to move to Lanier temporarily while the millbranch site is being renovated. Afterwards, Flagship middle school will move permanently to the former high school site on Jonetta st.

C.Clark states that if a new facility is not purchased, the purchase of portables for the millbranch campus would be necessary.

She states that by January they will either have a vote to seek funding for the acquisition of portables or the purchase of Lanier. In addition to the acquisition of a new facility, the Board will have to vote on the cost to expand on the millbranch campus.

J.Cornes ask if FPA will save money by buying Lanier.

C. Clark says that buying Lanier will save money, because portables will cost 1 million dollars in addition to the renovation and purchase of a new building.

V. Management Report

A. CEO Updates

R.Webb says they are renewed for 10 yrs. They also received a grant from Pyramid Peak for 4.4 million to prepare for growth of the Central Office.

B. Academic Data

L. Nelson notes that FPA's overall proficiency rate is 25%. FPA will have the highest overall success exam rate for high schools in Shelby County. FPA flagship middle school is # 2 for TVAAS of all schools in Shelby County. FPA are #1 in ELA growth, they dropped in Biology, Chemistry, and ELA at the high school. FPA did not get a reward this year for being #2 or #1. He states that students who stay with FPA 3 years or longer perform higher. FPA is the only CMO that has all of their SCS schools at Level 5 TVAAS. Westwood is at 3 but they are an ASD school. Additionally, the elementary school at the westwood campus jumped out of the bottom 5. The goal is that all FPA schools will become Reward Schools.

VI. Financials

C.Clark reports that the metrics used to measure financial performance have been modified. An attendance tracker has been added to the metrics to better monitor ADA. YTD- under by 1.6 million. There have been SIS tracking and membership data tracking issues. This has resulted in some FPA schools appearing more underenrolled than they are, according to EIS. However, FPA is under enrolled at two locations, but budget modifications are being made to account for that deficit.

VII. Closing Items

A. Adjournment

C.Orrin made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting.

A.Turner **seconded** the motion.. The board **VOTED** unanimously to approve the motion.

There being no further business to be transacted, and upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
C.Wallace